BOOK REVIEWS


This is an unusual book, because I could not make out the target audience for whom it was written. The editors omitted the usual Preface and left us with no option except to make our own educated guess about those who might possibly benefit from this work.

There are 57 profiles covered under eight sections. These profiles are summaries of various techniques. We were not told on what basis these sections were created and various profiles grouped together. I could not figure out the scientific logic behind the groupings. The profiles are unclear and in many places totally wrong. For example, on p. 16, in the bottom panel (these are not labelled as figures for some reason), the legend says that the protruding ends are 3’-OH ends. But the line drawing shows protruding 5’-P.

In profile 11 we have the following statement: ‘The Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I isolated from E. coli is capable, using the complementary strand as template, of adding nucleotides to a 3’-OH end of DNA, which appears when one of the strands of a DNA molecule is cleaved’. This statement implies that every E. coli makes Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase. The same profile also has the following: ‘This enzyme also has a 5’-exonuclease activity that eliminates nucleotides on the 5’-P side of the cleavage’. This is incorrect. Klenow fragment generated by subtilisin cleavage lacks the 5’-exonuclease activity of DNA polymerase I. Such mistakes are abundant in the book.

There are vague statements, such as the one given below, in several places. The vectors that could carry large inserts are called ‘large vectors’.

I do not recommend this book for anyone, unless someone wants to test his/her capability to spot mistakes.

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MEETINGS/SYMPOSIA/SEMINARS

International Conference on Terrestrial Planets: Evolution through time

Date: 22–25 January 2008
Place: Ahmedabad, India

Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) will hold an international conference on the above theme to provide a forum for discussion on the present status and future perspectives in utilizing modern geochemical and isotope techniques to understand the origin and evolution of the solar system, the chronology and causes of major events on Earth, past climate, and dynamics of various reservoirs in Earth. The conference is organized as a part of PRL’s Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

For further information please refer to the conference website: http://www.prl.res.in/~djconf08

National Workshop on Rapid Aneuploidy Diagnosis by FISH

Date: 20–25 August 2007
Place: AIIMS, New Delhi

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