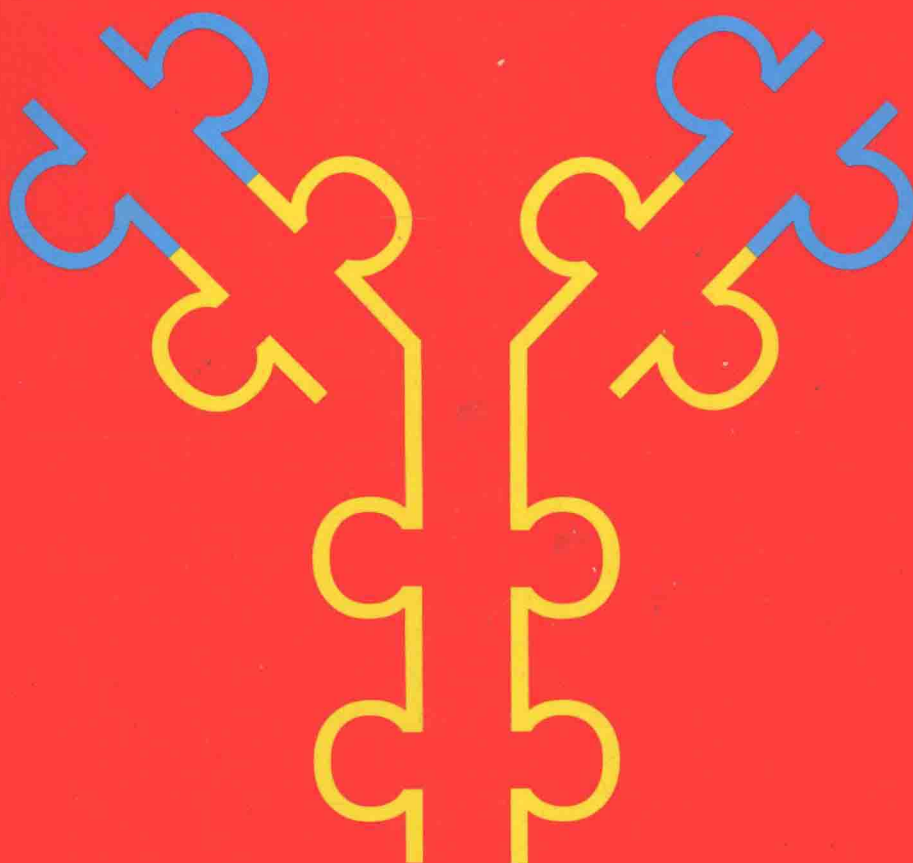


IMMUNOLOGY

A Short Course

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Alan R. Liss, Inc., New York

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PREFACE

Why was this book written? At a time when so many excellent, extensive, and beautifully illustrated texts flood the book stores, why offer another one? The reasons are fairly simple and rather unsophisticated. In our collective 30 some-odd years of teaching all kinds of students, we have become convinced that most texts fail their purpose because they overshoot the mark.

Anyone coming into contact with these students year after year cannot fail to appreciate the burden under which they operate. If they are to graduate, they must learn an enormous amount of material on an exceptionally diverse series of subjects, each increasing in scope yearly. As any student can tell you, every faculty lecturer considers his/her particular topic absolutely essential for future graduates, and so the pile of required “essentials” grows and grows. This is a manifestly untenable approach to curriculum.

A second cruel observation arises from long years of questioning students: many of them are not really that interested in immunology! As exciting, dynamic and all-encompassing in its passion as we practitioners of immunology find it to be, the students have many other interests and concerns, one of which is to pass the five or six other subjects usually taken simultaneously with immunology.

This book was therefore conceived along the lines of the noted architect Mies van der Rohe's dictum, "less is more." We have devised this text to present the bare essentials of immunology in a palatable form that will enable most students to grasp the essential principles of immunology sufficiently to pass their course. For those developing a deeper interest in the field, numerous advanced and more complete texts exist to further their interests.

The book follows the outlines of most immunology courses and is divided into chapters that approximate the length of an average lecture reading assignment. A short introduction setting the stage precedes each chapter, the end of each chapter contains a summary, and a series of study questions appears at the very end. The questions are designed to enable students to evaluate their own progress and comprehension; the appended answers are meant as a further learning experience. As new terms or concepts are introduced, they are italicized and defined for easy recognition and recall.

It is our hope that students using this text will avoid that choking sensation so common in a course in immunology and even conceive a curiosity about the subject that will lead to further study.

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Dr. Demosthenes Pappagianis, University of California School of Medicine at Davis, contributed Chapter 20, which provides useful practical insights into the application of immunology to the prevention and therapy of infectious diseases.

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Finally, we applaud the forbearance of our wives, Joy and Thelma, who tolerated our constant whining during the writing of this book.

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