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## Preface

Research into gluten sensitivity has never been more popular nor more exciting. Thus a call for a new book, *Celiac Disease: Methods and Protocols*, devoted entirely to techniques and technology seemed a most appropriate undertaking. I am therefore grateful to Professor J. M. Walker for inviting me to complete this task for Humana Press. To do this would have been impossible without the contributions of friends and colleagues from around the world who have devoted so much interest to the project. It has also been necessary for them to master the unique chapter-writing skills required of every manuscript published in this series of laboratory monographs.

With regard to gluten sensitivity we are in a period of great change, occasioned by the introduction of reproducible methods for cloning lymphocytes, the application of physical methods to identify gluten sequences as T-cell antigens, the study of peptide responses in vitro and in vivo by either jejunal or rectal challenge, elucidating the locations of other genes concerned in pathogenesis, or the use of elegant immunohistocytochemical and mRNA probing techniques for analyzing the finer points of the mucosal inflammatory response to gluten. Never was a detailed laboratory handbook, of the quality assembled here through its contributing experts, so necessary as at this time!

It has been a privilege to put together *Celiac Disease: Methods and Protocols* and it is offered in the hope that its pages will contain the necessary information for any newcomer to this field to get himself or herself organized quickly with the least technical hindrance.

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<http://www.springer.com/978-0-89603-650-5>

Celiac Disease

Methods and Protocols

Marsh, M.N. (Ed.)

2000, XVI, 288 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-0-89603-650-5

A product of Humana Press