

## Preface

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Although there have been many books on HIV and AIDS, surprisingly little has been published that focuses on the immunology of retroviral infections in general, and HIV in particular. *Retroviral Immunology: Immune Response and Restoration* is the first book of its kind to address the most important aspects of the immunology of retroviruses, including not only the virus-specific immune responses, but also genetic and virologic factors modulating these responses.

The book also deals directly with the emerging concept of immune restoration in retroviral infections, a particularly important subject to the thousands of clinicians who deal with this problem on a daily basis. With the advent of highly effective antiviral drug regimens to slow down the replication of HIV and the progression of AIDS, new challenges and opportunities are arising. Restoration of general immune function has brought with it not only complications of immune restoration-mediated disease, but also the realistic hope for meaningful restoration of the ability to control HIV replication with the immune system.

Leading scientists in the field have summarized the most current information regarding experimental and clinical aspects of retroviral infections. *Retroviral Immunology: Immune Response and Restoration* should prove an important point of reference for basic scientists and clinicians in this area of research. We are indebted to all of our authors for their excellent contributions.

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