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## Preface

The rapid identification and characterization of genes of neurological relevance holds great potential for offering insight into the diagnosis, management, and understanding of the pathophysiologic mechanisms of neurological diseases. This volume in the *Methods in Molecular Biology*<sup>TM</sup> series was conceived to highlight many of the contemporary methodological approaches utilized for the characterization of neurologically relevant gene mutations and their protein products. Although an emphasis has been placed upon descriptions of methodologies with a defined clinical utility, it is hoped that *Neurogenetics: Methods and Protocols* will appeal not only to clinical laboratory diagnosticians, but also to clinicians, and to biomedical researchers with an interest in advances in disease diagnosis and the functional consequences of neurologically relevant gene mutations.

To meet this challenge, more than 60 authors graciously accepted my invitation to contribute to the 32 chapters of this book. Through their collective commitment and diligence, what has emerged is a comprehensive and timely treatise that covers many methodological aspects of mutation detection and screening, including discussions on quantitative PCR, trinucleotide repeat detection, sequence-based mutation detection, molecular detection of imprinted genes, fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH), *in vitro* protein expression systems, and studies of protein expression and function. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank my colleagues for their effort and dedication to this work.

This book would not have been possible without the guidance and wisdom of the Series Editor, Professor John M. Walker, whose intimate knowledge of the nuances of the editorial process made my job somewhat less intimidating. I would also like to thank Thomas Lanigan, President of Humana Press, who enthusiastically embraced the book concept and my original prospectus from the very beginning, and Craig Adams, also at Humana Press, for transforming the individual chapters into their final form.

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