

Preface

The preparation of *Aging, Immunity, and Infection* has been a "labor of labor." When we began, there existed a huge literature—but manageable, we thought, given our years of experience in the area often referred to as immunogerontology. However, in the time that we have been at work, the new relevant literature has increased at a prodigious rate. The more we read and tried to assimilate, the farther we fell behind. In order to have any hope of completing a book on this rapidly evolving topic, we have been forced to become increasingly selective in covering new and recent publications. We dare to hope that many readers will find the book useful and only a few will dwell on the inevitable inadequacies. We consider the book a work in progress, and welcome suggestions for future editions.

Five chapters cover several aspects of infection and the decline of immunity with age. The first chapter "Human Aging: Present and Future," is devoted to demographics and theories of senescence. Chapter 2 outlines the gradual breakdown of resistance to infection in the aged individual. Chapters 3 and 4 cover changes in innate and acquired immunity. The final chapter, "Nutrition, Longevity, and Integrity of the Immune System," discusses such provocative ideas as life-span extension and nutritional intervention for the delay of immunosenescence.

We acknowledge with gratitude the outstanding staff of the National Cancer Institute Scientific Library at Frederick, Maryland for maintaining a first-rate library where nearly everything is available and easy to locate.

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