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# Preface

Studies incorporating cell–cell interactions remain an exciting and ever-evolving discipline within the broader areas of biology. Although recent advances in genetics have provided much insight into gene- and disease-specific mechanisms, such models are often limited by tissue/organ complexity. The use of directed cell models to study the manner by which two or more cells interact has revolutionized our understanding of protein–protein interactions in a complex milieu and have provided an invaluable platform for the identification of new molecules.

The aim of *Cell–Cell Interactions: Methods and Protocols* is to provide a collection of diverse protocols, incorporating methods-based approaches both in vitro and in vivo. The authors of the various chapters are highly skilled experts in the development and utilization of cell–cell interaction assays. Their extensive expertise provides a detailed, step-by-step map of a reproducible protocol. Importantly, these protocols are readily adaptable for nearly any cell type and any organ system, and for this reason, I have tried to compile a diverse set of chapters incorporating numerous individual types of cells. It is my hope that this book will be both insightful to the beginner and inspiring to the experienced.

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Methods and Protocols

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