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## Preface

Diabetes is now reaching epidemic proportions, and the associated complications of this disease can be life threatening and disabling. Over recent years, both clinical and basic researchers have increased our understanding of the mechanisms involved in the progression of diabetes and the relative roles played by both environmental and genetic factors. For example, it is well known that a lifestyle of inactivity and excessive food intake plays an important part in diabetes risk.

The purpose of this volume is to provide up-to-date explanations of commonly used laboratory protocols used in diabetes research. Specifically, the chapters will cover the commonly described in vivo and in vitro model systems, ultimately leading to an overall view of how cellular dysfunction and degeneration lead to susceptibility and diabetes disease progression.

This book is unique in providing a simple explanation of a particular practical technique or model in a short succinct format, thus allowing research scientists and clinicians quick and easy practical information to address a particular question. There are key practical notes at the end of each chapter, as well as numerous helpful tables and figures.

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