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## Preface

Two years passed between conception and publication of this book. A lengthy time, perhaps, but came about because all those contributing to and working on the manual were fully occupied professionals. Although this took more time than we would have liked, the strength of the final product lies in the fact that all those who contributed *are* leaders in their particular field of interest and are actively using the technology in their laboratories. The methodology has been written up by those with first-hand experience, and as a result, in most cases, we have been able to include a troubleshooting section at the end of each chapter, which will help those new to the technology to overcome the difficulties that sometime plague such detailed procedures.

We owe a tremendous vote of thanks to all our contributors. Thank you all so much for making time during your busy workweek to contribute your knowledge and experience to this project. Additional thanks must go to Belen Pintado, whose idea it was, in the first instance, that ISTT should embark upon such a project and to the ISTT Council of January of 2008, for the assembly of a putative list of contents for this manual. Thanks, too, to Kristina Nagy, who managed to write up her contribution while moving her family half way around the world for a sabbatical! Thanks to Jenny Nichols and Marina Gerstenstein, who jumped in with additional contributions at the last minute. Thanks to Lluís Montoliu, whose indefatigable energy levels keep us all on our toes, at ISTT Council! Thanks to Jan Parker Thornberg for imbuing her contribution with the passion she has for teaching and sharing of information. To Karen Brennan, whose wry sense of humor made it easy to thrash out the details of Colony Management. To Jorge Szein and many others, who fielded our questions with great patience. To Elizabeth Williams, who managed to finish off her contribution while dealing with the effects of flooding in Brisbane. To Tom Fielder who was able to summarize the work so far on the international survey of pronuclear injection, even though he was still buried in data for the project. Thanks to those who have made multiple contributions, Anna and Wojtek Auerbach, Lluís Montoliu, Marina Gerstenstein, and Thom Saunders. And to all those not mentioned by name here, your contribution is equally important and we thank you sincerely.

Finally, thanks to my co-ed, Thom Saunders, a veritable rock in a stormy sea, always ready with information, insight, and references to back it all up!

Also to Jutta Lindenborn and Sabine Schwarz of Springer publishing, for guiding us through this process and to Springer Publishing Company, for providing us with the means to bring this project to fruition.

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