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## Preface

As approaches utilizing nanotechnologies continue to grow and permeate many aspects of science, so too does their applicability to cell biology and more specifically stem cell biology. The emerging interest in nanotechnology as relates to stem cell biology was the driving force behind putting together this volume of protocols. Although it was not possible to approach the topic in an encyclopedic fashion so as to collect all the different protocols in one volume, I have attempted to select a subset of representative protocols that will provide both a flavor of the field as it currently stands and hopefully stimulate new approaches and methodologies to advance the utility of nanotechnologies in stem cell biology.

The protocols gathered here are faithful to the mission statement of the *Methods in Molecular Biology* series: In brief, they are well established and described in an easy-to-follow step-by-step fashion so as to be valuable for not only experts but also novices in the stem cell field. That goal is achieved because of the generosity of the contributors who have carefully described their protocols in this volume, and I thank them for their efforts.

My thanks as well go to Dr. John Walker, the Editor in Chief of the *Methods in Molecular Biology* series, for his guidance and support not just for this volume but through the years.

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