

# Preface

The term “Fluorescence” was initially coined by George Gabriel Stokes in 1852, but the phenomenon had already been recorded for over 300 years. Our knowledge of fluorescence expanded through the pioneering work of Perrin, Jablonski and Förster and Weber. This work coincided with the synthesis of organic dyes—the fluorophores. Our ways to manipulate fluorophores have grown to suit our needs and our ways to detect them have developed more than could be imagined a few years ago. Almost all laboratories utilize fluorescence, whether it is microscopy or as a reagent. . . we could consider that we now live in the “Age of Fluorescence”.

Fluorescence and motor proteins have a long interconnected relationship. Indeed, the progress in fluorescence methods has directly advanced our knowledge of these molecular machines.

Written by experts, this book focuses on the application of fluorescence to study motor proteins. It is intended for a large community of biochemists, biophysicists and cell biologists who study a diverse collection of motor proteins. It can be used by researchers to gain an insight into their first experiments, or by experienced researchers who are looking to expand their research to new areas. Within each chapter you will find valuable advice for executing the experiments, along with detailed background knowledge in order to develop your own experiments.

We thank all the authors for their hard work making this book a reality.

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