

Preface

The scope of this book is to help students of medicine and biology to succeed with their histology classes and earn good grades while using less time on studying the histology curriculum.

Almost all text of this book is written in bullets and put into lists, structured tables, and diagrams, which make it quick and easy to read and understand, and gives a good overview of the curriculum. Additionally, this organization of the text makes it easy to locate specific information, such as the dimensions of cellular structures or functions of cells and tissues.

Most chapters include illustrations covering parts of the curriculum, which are otherwise difficult to interpret. Additionally, the book includes guides to practical histology, including simplified illustrations of histological specimens side by side with photomicrographs of the specimen. The guides follow the respective chapters and help the reader to distinguish between the different histological specimens and describe which characteristics distinguish one specimen from other similar specimens, which can be presented during a practical histology exam. The simplified illustration of the specimen additionally helps the student recognize the important characteristics in the microscope. Finally, the book is filled with “memo-boxes” in which parts of the curriculum are put into rhymes and acronyms.

This book is based on our top-selling Danish edition, which we wrote while teaching histology at the University of Copenhagen.

Due to our fascination of anatomy and especially histology, the three of us started to teach histology, when halfway through medical school. As we were then teachers and medical students at the same time, we had a great understanding of which parts of the curriculum were difficult and which were not. And even though none of us started out as histology experts, the experience gained through years of teaching gave us an insight of how this complex curriculum could be presented in an easy and intuitive way. It was this understanding that made us write our first Danish edition of the book.

With this new, English book, we wish to share these principles as well as our enthusiasm for histology, with students all over the world. This book covers the same curriculum as the classical textbooks, from basic tissue histology to the

histology of specific organs, but in a more simple and intuitive way. It can be used as a supplement to classical full-curriculum textbooks, to lectures, or on its own—a quick, easy, and comprehensible way to learn histology, e.g., before class or when brushing up for an exam.

Nowadays, where biological curricula are growing, due to the increasing amount of knowledge gained through research, we believe that it is necessary and often helpful for the understanding to focus on the basics, as students are often overwhelmed by the enormous amounts of information presented to them in textbooks.

Since the fields of histology, cell biology, and physiology are still being explored, the literature is constantly evolving and is in some areas inconsistent. We have tried to present the most recent and the most accepted facts in this book, all in a well-organized and structured way.

The book is divided into two main parts, “histology of tissues” and “histology of organs,” as we believe that the structure of the organs is easier to comprehend when first knowing the structures of the basic tissues. Different cells and tissues are described as they appear in hematoxylin and eosin staining, unless otherwise stated. We hope you will enjoy reading this book and that it will help you with your studies.

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Compendium of Histology

A Theoretical and Practical Guide

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