

Foreword

Experimental investigations made with relatively few kinds of microorganisms in the middle of the twentieth century rapidly revealed not only that genetic information is carried on nucleic acid molecules, but also how this information carries out its specific functions and how it evolves in the course of time. This fruitful development also led to the possibilities to determine the specific nucleotide sequences of genes. In recent decades, research has been more and more extended to yet little-studied kinds of microorganisms, which include bacteria, archaea, and small eukaryotes. For the selection of scientific reports included in this collection, particular attention was given to research contributions providing deeper insights into the remarkable inventiveness of nature in specific contributions to the slowly ongoing biological evolution by a kind of self-organization of nature. These investigations bring about highly valuable insights into the natural laws of biological evolution.

Biozentrum University of Basel
Basel, Switzerland

Werner Arber

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