
Preface

Immunotoxicology as an interdisciplinary area of research, assessment, and instruction has been formally recognized since at least the 1970s. The science supporting immunotoxicology has driven both mechanistic research defining the interactions between xenobiotics and the immune system as well as safety testing for chemicals, drugs, and medical devices.

During that time, there have emerged societies, specialty sections, and entire journals devoted solely to Immunotoxicology. While several important books have been prepared on this and related topics, *Immunotoxicity Testing* is among the first to meld consideration of immunotoxicity testing approaches and strategies with a comprehensive presentation of detailed laboratory protocols.

The goal of the book is to utilize the expertise of scientists actually engaged in immunotoxicity testing to provide the reader with lab-ready procedures and the background information needed to identify effective testing approaches. The book includes an introduction to the topic with a description of the evolution of immunotoxicity testing and ideas concerning its future direction. Additionally, the importance of immunotoxicity testing for health risk reduction is presented by categories of disease.

Given this scope, the book is appropriate for a broad audience reaching beyond immunotoxicology itself. Chapters are designed to be accessible by students, technicians, lab and safety office personnel as well as biology- and chemistry-oriented researchers. Above all, the book provides a one-stop reference resource for the most important and commonly used laboratory protocols in immunotoxicology.

As an editor, I thank the expert authors for the time and effort they devoted to each chapter and hope that this novel reference work will aid the continued evolution and the application of immunotoxicity testing.

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