Preface

Meiosis is one of the most critical processes in eukaryotes, required for continuation of species and generation of new variation. In plants, meiotic recombination is by far the most important source of genetic variation. For the past several years, we have been witnessing a revolution in our understanding of how meiosis works in plants, particularly at the molecular level. These insights have been made possible by advances in methods for molecular cytogenetics and chromosome analysis. This new set of tools helps us understand the organization and behavior of the genetic material in a wide range of both model and crop species. In this volume, we have assembled an extensive list of protocols developed and used in a number of laboratories at the cutting edge of meiosis and chromosome research. We are highly indebted to all contributors for the work they put into compiling the protocols and their willingness to share them with the scientific community. We hope that this book will be a useful addition to the library of both established and newly set up laboratories.

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