

Book Review

Animal Cell Culture

by Sara J. Morgan and David C. Darling
Oxford, U.K.; Bios Scientific Publishers Ltd.; 1993

Developed for readers not familiar with cell culture, this volume provides a wealth of information on a broad range of activities in a concise and readable fashion. Roughly the first half of the book describes the basics with detail on the cell culture laboratory and required equipment, aseptic technique, media composition and preparation, primary versus continuous cell lines, microbial contamination and cryopreservation. The second half deals with more specialized techniques including cloning, lymphocyte separation and immortalization, cell fusion including hybridoma development, and transfection. Quality photographs, simplified flow diagrams, and illustrations are included as appropriate to supplement the text explanations for some of the more complicated procedures and protocols.

The concise coverage in some areas has its drawbacks in the omissions versus summary details chosen. For example, the pitfalls

associated with bacterial, fungal and mycoplasma infection are mentioned in the chapter on contamination but no information is provided on testing. However, overt contamination by yeast, filamentous fungi and bacteria are nicely illustrated. Little or no mention is made of the distinct possibility of contamination by other cell lines, a particularly unfortunate omission from the perspective of anyone involved in cell bank development. The bibliographies also are rather cryptic for many of the chapters, but the appendices provide recommendation on further reading, addresses of major suppliers, as well as a short glossary of terms.

This work will provide the novice with a valuable initial text and introduction to the utility of cell culture technology. The paperback volume is available for less than half the cost of more detailed manuals, some of which are listed in the recommended reading list appended.

ERRATUM

The following change should be noted for the letter to the editor that was published in *In Vitro Cellular & Developmental Biology—Animal*, Vol. 29A, No. 8, August 1993, pages 617–619.

In the legend of figure 2, at line 5, “solid circles” should be replaced by “open circles” and “open circles” should be replaced by “solid circles.” Also, the doubling times (line 7 of the same legend) were expressed in hours.