

Book Review

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DNA Transfer to Cultured Cells. Edited by Katya Ravid and R. Ian Freshney. New York: Wiley, 1998. Pp. 296. \$69.95.

DNA Transfer to Cultured Cells is a short treatise that deals mostly with transfection of specialized cells in culture. Transfection protocols include derivations of standard calcium phosphate, diethylaminoethyl dextran, and electroporation methods. Protocols for development of retrovirus-packaging cell lines or retrovirus vectors from transient transfection methods are also described. The descriptions of pseudotyping Moloney-based vector systems with the vesicular stomatitis virus G glycoprotein is a good introduction into a method (pseudotyping) that is being used more frequently with other envelopes and other vectors.

In general, this is a solid introduction to methods commonly used in the past 5–20 years. However, several widely used vector systems are not described in this book, including the use of vectors based on adenovirus, adeno-associated virus, herpesvirus, and lentivirus, as well as the use of virus-assisted transfection methods. Given the rapid development of this field, it is also unfortunate that the references listed are nearly all from 1995 or earlier.

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