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**Book reviews**

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**Hagemann, R.: Allgemeine Genetik. Studienreihe Biowissenschaften.** Jena: Fischer 1984. 542 pp., 201 figs., 37 tabs. DM 32,80.

The distinguishing feature of this German textbook is its compact character. In 19 chapters all the important aspects of classical and modern genetics are presented: the reader receives an excellent overall picture of genetics, including such various aspects as applications in plant and animal breeding, and genetic engineering. Mutations, plasmic inheritance and gene regulation in procaryotes and eucaryotes receive more detailed handling.

The manner of presentation is not the historical or classical one, instead, it follows the internal logic of our present state of knowledge. It is quite a chore to successfully give an overview on the whole field of genetics in 500 pages. However, I think the author has succeeded, although some aspects of human genetics are missing.

The book reads well for those who are able to handle the German language. It is a compendium, useful to scientists who want to be informed on what is going on in genetics, as well as to teachers who want to stay up-to-date with the rapid progress occurring in genetics these days.

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**Silhavy, T.J.; Berman, M.L.; Enquist, L.W. (eds.): Experiments with Gene Fusions.** Cold Spring Harbor: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory 1984. 303 pp., several figs and tabs. Soft bound \$ 48,-.

This manual is based on advanced bacterial genetics courses presented at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories during the last three years. It summarizes not only the experiments but also the experiences obtained in teaching these courses and it is simply on this basis of general interest for anyone teaching advanced bacterial genetics. Apart from this, for workers primarily interested in eukaryotic cells, the manual represents an excellent completion of the "Maniatis Manual" for recombinant DNA technology.

The content of the manual is organized in three sections: (1) Experiments, with a general description and specific comments, as well as a schedule for the respective experiment. (2) Procedures. Here, detailed protocols are collected for the various experimental techniques required for the specific experiments. These protocols can be directly used during the course and contain all relevant information. (3) In an Appendix, general information on media and solutions, phenotypes and genotypes of *E. coli*, information on proper handling *E. coli*, phages, on cloning vectors, and on the structure and functions of various important *E. coli* genes is collected.

This summary on the content of "Experiments with gene fusions" makes it obvious that it will be appreciated by anybody working in recombinant DNA technology. Particular interest will be directed to the protocols on gene fusion techniques which provide information on how to select for the expression of hybrid proteins in the appropriate clone banks. The layout will make it a pleasure to use the manual.

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