

## Book Review:

# Atlas of Immunology

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Cruse JM, Lewis RE: Atlas of Immunology. Springer, CRC Press, Heidelberg, Boca Raton, 1999, ISBN 3-540-64807-09000, 69.95 US\$

At a first glance it seems somewhat unusual to present an atlas of immunology, a medical discipline which primarily describes and investigates in biological function and not in structure. At a second, more detailed view it becomes clear that biological functions and biochemical properties are closely related to specific structures of macromolecules and their associated energy transfer systems. Thus, this atlas of immunology, which has been designed to provide a pictorial reference source contains more than 1,000 illustrations, mainly macromolecule (backbone, computer modeling, etc.) structures followed by graphs of antigen-antibody interactions. Included are also electron and light microscopic microphotographs of immunologic disorders such as usual interstitial pneumonia, sarcoidosis, or angiitis. In accordance with the principle aim to present a broad illustrated basis of immunology the chapters of the atlas are arranged in the conventional order of a textbook: A detailed history of immunology giving the portraits of involved scientists is followed by a chapter on macromolecules and immune response. The additional chapters on general aspects include antigens, immunogens, vaccines, antigen presentation, the role of the thymus and T-lymphocytes. The chapters on specific features mucosal immunology, immunohematology, AIDS, or transplant and tumor immunology.

All chapters provide the reader with detailed information of experimental and clinical aspects, and of the underlying processes which are involved in the immunologic interactions or alterations. All illustrations are given in a black and white mode, which is acceptable for graphs and backbone reconstructions; however, some of the light microscopic microphotographs do not meet the standards of illustrated textbooks. Nevertheless, the textbook can be recommended to students, post-graduates and colleagues who want to read basics and details of immunology in a fast and easy-to-understand manner.

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