Meiosis
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Preface

The fifth volume of the book series *Genome Dynamics* is dedicated to ‘Meiosis’. Meiosis is a special type of cell division through which haploid cells are generated from a diploid cell and therefore, a key event in the life of sexually reproducing organisms. Meiosis also represents the largest natural source of genetic variability that is a consequence of the recombination and segregation of the maternal and paternal sets of chromosomes.

The field of meiosis research is a rapidly expanding one. Significant progress achieved in recent years has resulted from the use of suitable model systems as well as from the identification and characterization of proteins, many of them meiosis-specific, which are critically involved in key meiotic events. The present volume provides the reader with a series of authoritative review articles summarizing some of the most recent advances in the field of meiosis research. To this end most of the more commonly used model systems have been taken into account and compared.

We wish to express our special thank you to all authors who have contributed to this volume with their excellent review articles and the referees for their expert assistance. Last, but not least, we wish to express our gratitude to Michael Schmid and his team for their invaluable editorial support.

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June 2008