Drug Dosage
The authors and the publisher have exerted every effort to ensure that drug selection and dosage set forth in this text are in accord with current recommendations and practice at the time of publication. However, in view of ongoing research, changes in government regulations, and the constant flow of information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, the reader is urged to check the package insert for each drug any change in indications and dosage and for added warnings and precautions. This is particularly important when the recommended agent is a new and/or infrequently employed drug.

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The recent spread of human immunodeficiency viruses throughout the world underscores the importance of retroviral infections and emphasizes the need for techniques which can deepen our understanding of their pathogenesis. Both new and older techniques such as electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry and the polymerase chain reaction have provided invaluable insights into the complex relationships between viruses and their host cells in slow infections, but one technique, in situ hybridization, has emerged as a particularly powerful technology for studies of retroviral pathogenesis because it combines detection of viral genomes and transcripts with morphological information. This volume on the molecular pathology of retroviral infections, which grew out of a workshop whose primary focus was in situ hybridization in retroviral infections (Hamburg, West Germany, November 17-18, 1988), treats this topic in the detail it deserves, but also contains chapters on the polymerase chain reaction, immunohistochemistry and electron microscopy to provide a broad and up-to-date overview of the field of molecular pathology of retroviral infections, written by individuals who have developed and applied these techniques in retroviral research.

The book opens with an overview of the pathogenesis of animal lentivirus infections viewed at the level of the individual cell harboring virus as revealed by in situ hybridization and immunocytochemical methods. Subsequent chapters are devoted to the use of different techniques, such as hapten-modified probe for in situ hybridization, polymerase chain reaction amplification, electron microscopy, immunocytochemistry and immunohistochemical analysis, to investigate various retroviral and non-retroviral models. The pathophysiological aspects of animal and human retroviral diseases are then discussed and compared, especially visna/maedi and HIV infections but also FeLV (which provided the model for searching for a retrovirus in AIDS) and SIV, currently the most important AIDS model system.

The editors wish to thank the authors who contributed to this volume, and the European Community Commission Program on AIDS through the 'Concerted action on the pathophysiology and immunology of HIV-related diseases' for sponsoring the Hamburg workshop and publication of its proceedings. We dedicate this volume to Dr. Kurt A. Krber on his 80th birthday,
to recognize and gratefully acknowledge the role he has played in promoting research in Europe through the Award for the Advancement of European Science (General Secretary Dr. H. Gretz) which has generously supported many of the authors of this work.

Paul Racz
Ashley T. Haase
Jean-Claude Gluckman