

## Preface

**M**Y GOAL IN DEVELOPING THIS BOOK WAS TO HIGHLIGHT the major advances in plant genetics that have generated an important base of research knowledge, while also highlighting those discoveries that have led to useful agricultural applications, including those that are still in formative stages. The idea of preparing a book that captures this subject matter on the exciting progress in plant biology over the last few decades emerged from discussions with editor Richard Sever. The aim was to highlight important contributions and to present them in a way that scientists outside of the field would find interesting and relevant to their own disciplines. I was fortunate to be able to work on this volume with highly knowledgeable and scientifically active investigators who contributed chapters on topics on which they have deep expertise.

Of course, in an area of research as vast and rapidly advancing as plant biology, it is not possible to represent all key areas and viewpoints. Nevertheless, I hope that the diverse subjects covered herein will prove useful to a broad audience of researchers.

I wish to thank Barbara Acosta, Richard Sever, and their colleagues at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press for their excellent editorial and compositional efforts in putting this book together and their patience with the inevitable delays and minor crises that arise during such an ambitious undertaking. Thanks as well to Hanna Bartram, who helped assemble this volume while performing other administrative and research tasks.

Finally, I would like to thank the many scientists who have contributed to this book. I am grateful for their enthusiasm, hard work, and attention to detail in preparing each chapter, which can serve as a resource for technicians, graduate students, postdocs, and any investigator interested in plant genetics and agriculture.

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