

PREFACE

This Preface need only be short, since the rationale and basis for the volume is given below in the Introduction. My objective now is to acknowledge the central role of Professor Aziz Nather in editing and planning this volume. As the Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency Training Courses in tissue banking at the Regional Centre at the National University Hospital in Singapore, he recognised the need for the tissue banker, not only to be well versed in the production techniques, but also in the scientific principles which underpin the entire subject. With such an interdisciplinary subject, access to the various scientific and medically-related materials is often difficult for the student. In the one-year National University of Singapore University Diploma Course which he initiated, Prof. Nather, therefore, introduced lectures by specialists which covered these associated subjects. It then became even clearer that the student did not have access to appropriate texts to study the subject in more depth. Consequently, this volume was conceived. It now provides another building unit to give the tissue banker and tissue user a foundation to the subject. He is uniquely qualified to pilot this volume, for he himself is both a tissue banker and user, and additionally a pioneering educationalist in the subject. The product in this volume will prove valuable to all involved in tissue banking and provide a ready reference to the various scientific basic parts of the field. We must all thank him and congratulate him and his colleagues on the outcome.

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Editor-in-Chief