

BASIC IMMUNOLOGY



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FOREWORD



This book intends providing an introduction to immunology for undergraduate and graduate students. As we were engaged for a few years in teaching in a Master's Degree at the University of Huè, Viet Nam, the Authors debated at length what should be emphasized and, on the contrary, what could be left to an eventual personal investigation in a basic course of Immunology. Our first agreement was that the main emphasis should be on immunological strategies, while most of the molecular mechanisms could be left to student exploration. Molecular biology is now so pervasive that everyone easily swims in the sea of molecular mechanisms. Updated information on molecular pathways of the immune system can be obtained on internet without difficulty. By contrast, the peculiar logic of immunological reactions is sometimes not obvious and not easy to grasp.

A second shared view was that a schematic drawing could be more informative than a long text. Therefore this book is mainly based on text illustrations, while only an explanatory comment is reported in legends.

We wish to thank exquisite Mrs. Jehanne Marchesi for the numerous corrections and suggestions.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



PIERO MUSIANI, MD was a semi-professional basketball player, but then he became a Surgical Pathologist working first at the Catholic University, Rome and later at the University of Chieti, Italy. Initially his main experimental interest was on the thymus gland and secretory immunoglobulins. At the University of Chieti he played a pivotal role in the foundation of the Excellence Center on Aging (CeSI). In 2014 Piero died in a motorbike accident while he was drawing the illustrations of this book.

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