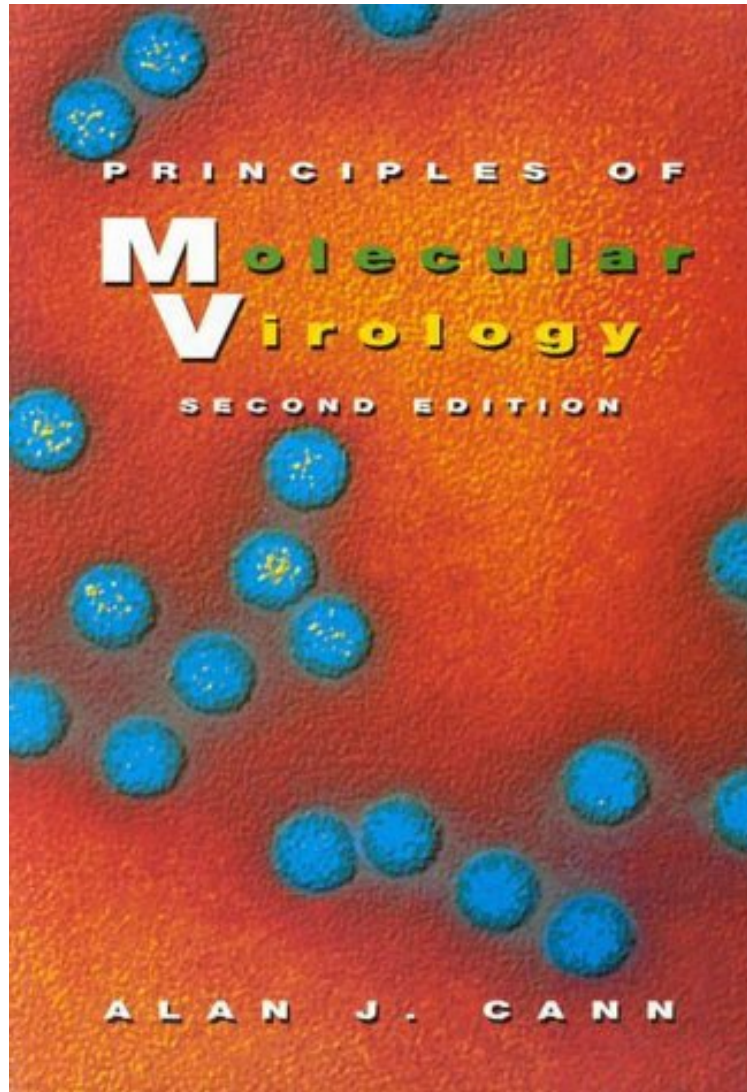


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Principles of Molecular Virology, Second Edition

Alan J. Cann

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Alan J. Cann : Principles of Molecular Virology, Second Edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Principles of Molecular Virology, Second Edition:

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Excellent summary of the field; easy to read By A Customer I'm not a biologist, but having developed an interest in virology, I searched for a book that would explain the basic principles in an understandable manner without too much jargon and too detailed illustrations or explanations (or too high a cost!). This book provides an overview of the field and sufficiently detailed but understandable information on virus structure and processes. Written well, it is a readable text with numerous illustrations that enhance understanding

of important principles. Frankly, it was also enjoyable to read. The chapters in some detail cover the viral processes like attachment and replication, the genome, and infection and the immune system responses. Both plant and human viruses are studied, and specific examples such as the picornaviruses (polioviruses), TMV, adenoviruses, retroviruses, and HHV/HIV are specifically mentioned in each chapter, adding example to observation. The author is also not shy about telling us where molecular virology is lacking information, which should provide clues for graduate students looking for research topics. What info the author does include (and this book is wealthy in facts) is presented clearly and understandably, so that a beginner like myself or even an intermediate student would find this a useful reference. This is a great book for anyone who has a working level of scientific training in any field. I highly recommend it to anyone looking for more understanding of the microbial universe -- based on the text, I have a better perspective on the competition and cooperation between microbes. What fascinated me most is that the book details, without specifically stating it, the intelligence at work in creating and sustaining the viral structures, in helping them become a success even though their success is a detriment to humans.

26 of 28 people found the following review helpful. Finally an understandable book on virology!

By K. L. Sadler
As a neuroscience student, I took a class on virology that I wasn't required to take. However, since I was working on AIDS and rabies, I decided I needed the background. Between the bad teaching and the horrible textbook, I ended up taking an audit in the class and came away from it very confused. This book managed to simply clarify everything that those supposedly distinguished professors of virology and the writers of the textbooks for the class couldn't do. Now as a science educator I am always horrified at how scientists take simple ideas and subjects and make them difficult for students or laypersons to understand. That isn't the motive for teaching science or at least shouldn't be. This text on virology is understandable to everyone, especially if someone like me who is deaf and therefore has English reading skills that are different from the norm can comprehend what the author is saying. All I can say to this author is Bravo, and why aren't you writing more!

Karen L. Sadler, Science Education, University of Pittsburgh

12 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Respectable beginning text on virology.

By K. L. Sadler
I took virology while in med school, and it made less sense to me than neuroscience did at first. Part of that was the presentation methods of the professors, and part of it was their refusal to use or even recommend a decent textbook to refer to. I found the monster books on virology they place in the reference section of the medical school library, but trying to afford those books on your own is impossible. And they were so technical and so detailed, that it did not give a decent overview of the field and you had to use the index to find what you wanted. Too big.

This book by Cann is a good addition to anyone interested in the field of virology. Since the emergence of new or at least never seen before diseases, more people are wanting to familiarize themselves with viruses, and now prions. I was a little disappointed at the short chapter on prions, but since this was on viruses I was expecting more than he needed to deliver. The text is well-written and concise, but limited in historical background which I think adds to understanding and interest. Placing discoveries of science in context of social and cultural background helps to tie primary information in with other memory, so that that information can be recalled. Since there are other books which provide the historical overview of the discovery of viruses and means to control them (vaccinations, etc.) it isn't absolutely necessary for this text to explain it. It just a personal preference I have where I think science should be placed in context of social and cultural norms, and the public health history aids in understanding why developing vaccines for some diseases was given priority over others.

This is a good and inexpensive book which can be referred back to for papers. I would highly recommend this particular text for those who are in virology classes, where the professors are not explaining to your understanding or satisfaction, or when you need to know more about the genetic makeup of viruses, or their ability to use normal cells to reproduce.

Karen Sadler, Science Education, University of Pittsburgh

Principles of Molecular Virology, Second Edition, provides an essential introduction to modern virology. Focusing on a molecular approach, this text presents the principles of virology in a clear and concise manner that gives students of biology or medicine a broad, comprehensive understanding of the subject. The text explores and explains the fundamental aspects of virology including structure of virus particles and genomes, virus replication, control of gene expression, virus pathogenesis (including AIDS), and detailed, up-to-date discussions of prion diseases. This new edition is expanded and has been completely revised and updated with many new figures and tables which complement the text. The summaries and new self-assessment questions at the end of each chapter provide excellent revision aids.

Key Features* Structure of Virus Particles and Virus Genomes* Virus replication* Control of Gene Expression* Virus Pathogenesis (Including AIDS)* Detailed and up-to-date Discussion of Prion Diseases

s of the First Edition" ...Excellent...the writing flows easily with good practical examples...an attractive, up-to-date book and is an excellent buy that I can strongly recommend."--SOCIETY FOR GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY QUARTERLY" More suitable for an undergraduate class than any other text I have recently seen...readable and undergraduate-friendly, and it fills a definite niche."--AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY QUARTERLY" ...Compact...and realistically priced...Present(s) molecular virology to an undergraduate audience in an easily digestible form."--TRENDS IN MICROBIOLOGY" ...A short, straightforward, inexpensive paperback that

concentrates on the basic principles of molecular virology...provide(s) a good starting point for non-virologists to rapidly acquire a working knowledge of the area."--TRENDS IN BIOCHEMISTRY Praise for the Second Edition "An excellent virological text for students. It is recommended in many university undergraduate courses for good reason. It is written in an accessible style... well illustrated... I suspect the self-assessment questions will be usefully plundered by those setting examinations. I have no doubt there will be a third edition."--TRENDS IN GENETICS "More suitable for an undergraduate class than any other text I have recently seen... Readable and undergraduate friendly, and it fills a definite niche."--AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY NEWS "Well worth its price... the text is easy to follow and represents a fantastic blend of basic principles, corresponding techniques and applied views."--E.F. Elstner, in ZEIT FÜR PFLANZENKRANKHEITEN UND PFLANZENSCHUTZ "There is a remarkable amount of detail included for so small a book. This well-written text provides a very useable introduction to virology. The information provided is current. It would be a worthwhile addition to the library of teachers of undergraduate virology."--Jerry L. Taylor, Medical College of Wisconsin, DOODY'S REVIEW About the Author Alan Cann has worked in both the U.K. and U.S.A., and in addition to teaching undergraduate, postgraduate, and medical students, he runs a research laboratory studying the molecular biology and pathogenesis of RNA viruses.