

Preface

A remarkable fourteen years have elapsed since the publication of the third edition of *Judd's Methods in Immunohematology*. We have maintained the SOP format of the last edition, in line with the guidelines of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute and have updated (and corrected!) the procedures where appropriate.

This new edition contains dozens of procedures and process documents, along with flow diagrams to guide the user in the appropriate management of patients, blood donors and samples. We have introduced a basic molecular biology section, well aware that there are commercial kits available but allowing for the inquisitive medical laboratory scientist to try their hand at these methods. The entire text is also available electronically to permit incorporation into institutional SOPs. As before, we have retained the majority of procedures from previous editions, despite the fact that many are no longer performed because of safety concerns (eg, elution techniques using organic solvents). By retaining procedures that may be considered obsolete by most clinical laboratory personnel, we hope to ensure they will not be lost to posterity; indeed, they may be useful to research investigators. We have also had a lot of fun revisiting old references to check accuracy and would have liked to provide a library of articles; however, this is not possible due to issues of copyright.

As always, there are many colleagues worldwide who have contributed to this edition through feedback, good ideas, and great discussions, and we thank you all for sharing with us. We would particularly like to thank Jennifer Herring, BS, SBB(ASCP)^{CM}, CHT(ABHI) who, during the course of her SBB studies, helped to completely rewrite the methods for preparation of lectins, using hands-on experience from her SBB project. Jenn has been recognized for her efforts and determination by an AABB Future Leader SBB Scholarship Award, which she truly deserved.

Finally, we are indebted to the AABB Press staff and their esteemed free-lance colleague, Jay Pennington, for their patience, integrity, and sheer hard work in managing the publication of this book. They have been a pleasure to work with, as always. Jay's attention to detail and ability to understand some of the most technically challenging procedures in this book should make him worthy of an honorary SBB!

While our dear colleague and coauthor, John Judd, has not been so active in this edition, he is, of course, the very essence of the book and his presence can be felt throughout!

We wish you happy reading.

Susan T. Johnson, MSTM, MT(ASCP)SBB^{CM}
Jill R. Storry, PhD, FBBTS
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