

ASCP QUICK COMPENDIUM

# COMPANION

FOR

MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY

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## ***Dedication***

*This book is again dedicated to my patient family, Kate and Audrey. Those late nights eventually will come to an end, I promise. Thanks to my parents for the endless encouragement over the years. Thanks also to Dan Mais, Joshua Weikersheimer, and Bart Wacek — my ASCP family. – GL*

*I would like to dedicate this book to my lovely wife, Erika, and my entertaining boys: Lucas, Owen, and Jonah. I would also like to thank my parents, Dr. Richard and Barbara Zuehl, for all their love and support. I blame my childhood exposure to formalin, xylene, and a mistrust of surgeons for my career choice. – FZ*

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# Introduction

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The promise of more accurate diagnostic assays with smaller amounts of sample, the cost savings, the ability to tailor therapy specifically to a patient and a patient's disease while minimizing medication side effects, unprecedented prognostic power — these are just a few of the many reasons that molecular pathology is growing by leaps and bounds. It has been estimated that, after the most recent administration of the molecular genetic pathology board exam in 2007, the number of board-certified molecular pathologists in the United States nearly doubled! At this time there are less than 2 dozen molecular genetic pathology fellowship programs accredited by the ACGME. As more fellows are trained, one can anticipate that molecular pathology will become a growth industry.

Board preparation is a necessary part of the training. This book was written primarily for the fellow preparing to take the molecular genetic pathology board exam. However, in the course of writing this review book, we realized that there may be a more broad interest in the content — residents preparing for the anatomic and clinical pathology board exams, established pathologists looking to update their skills, and many others.

We invite feedback. It will help us to make a better text as well as help colleagues achieve a more rewarding review. Don't hesitate to take advantage of the online bookshelf at <http://press.ascp.org>.