

# Preface

The first edition of *Principles* was published in 1983, and the second edition 16 years later in 1999. At that time I thought the third edition would not be written until 2010 or later. However, the technology of fluorescence has advanced at an accelerating pace. Single-molecule detection and fluorescence-correlation spectroscopy are becoming almost routine. New classes of probes have appeared, such as the semiconductor nanoparticles, or QDots, and genetically engineered green fluorescent probes. Additionally, it is now becoming possible to control the excited states of fluorophores, rather than relying only on spontaneous emission. These developments are changing the par-

adigm of fluorescence, from a reliance on organic fluorophores, to the use of genetic engineering, nanotechnology, and near-field optics.

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