Monoclonal antibodies are one of the most exciting developments in biotechnology in recent years; this book provides a comprehensive description of principles, methodologies and applications of this powerful technology to modern science and industry. The immune system of the body, in particular the role of antibodies, is described; and details provided on the isolation of antibody-producing cells, how hybridomas are formed and maintained in culture such that the required antibody can be produced to a very high degree of purity.

Monoclonal Antibodies offer alternative treatment to cancer patients who have failed or progressed on standard chemotherapy. Clinical research continues to explore new antigens to target in hopes of discovering the “magic bullet” to eliminate cancer altogether. Implications for nursing practice: Collaboration with infection control should be considered for nurses administering monoclonal antibodies to ensure their safe handling.