This manual was inspired by "the cloning manual," Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual by Tom Maniatis, Ed Fritsch, and Joe Sambrook, a book that did so much to expand the community of scientists using molecular biology methods. The great joy of that manual was and is the confidence it gives to beginners and the way it tempts all workers to try new approaches.

Chapters 4–11 are concerned with laboratory practice, and cover the storage, purifying and labelling of antibodies, immunostaining procedures, immunoprecipitation, immunoblotting, immunoaffinity, purification, tagging proteins and epitope mapping. Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual by Edward Harlow and David Lane, has had that status for a decade. Now there is a new and even higher standard—Using Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual. Harlow and Lane have completely revised their guide to the use of immunoglobulin reagents in the laboratory. Chapters have been entirely rewritten, and the book has become a standard in biomedicine.