

# Contents

Preface xiii

List of illustrations xv

Common abbreviations xvii

1 The early milestones 1

2 DNA 13

3 RNA 33

4 Proteins 45

5 Molecular interactions 63

6 Genetic engineering 78

7 Molecular biology in the clinic 93

8 Molecular forensics 109

9 Future challenges 124

References 137

Further reading 139

Index 141