

# Preface to the First Edition

In writing this book we have tried to present an account of modern food microbiology that is both thorough and accessible. Since our subject is broad, covering a diversity of topics from viruses to helminths (by way of the bacteria) and from pathogenicity to physical chemistry, this can make presentation of a coherent treatment difficult; but it is also part of what makes food microbiology such an interesting and challenging subject.

The book is directed primarily at students of Microbiology, Food Science and related subjects up to Master's level and assumes some knowledge of basic microbiology. We have chosen not to burden the text with references to the primary literature in order to preserve what we hope is a reasonable narrative flow. Some suggestions for further reading for each chapter are included in Chapter 12. These are largely review articles and monographs which develop the overview provided and can also give access to the primary literature if required. We have included references that we consider are among the most current or best (not necessarily the same thing) at the time of writing, but have also taken the liberty of including some of the older, classic texts which we feel are well worth revisiting on occasion. By the very nature of current scientific publishing, many of our most recent references may soon become dated themselves. There is a steady stream of research publications and reviews appearing in journals such as *Food Microbiology*, *Food Technology*, the *International Journal of Food Microbiology*, the *Journal of Applied Bacteriology* and the *Journal of Food Protection* and we recommend that these sources are regularly surveyed to supplement the material provided here.

We are indebted to our numerous colleagues in food microbiology from whose writings and conversation we have learned so much over the years. In particular we would like to acknowledge Peter Bean for looking through the section on heat processing, Ann Dale and Janet Cole for their help with the figures and tables and, finally, our long suffering families of whom we hope to see more in the future.