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NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT
November 2004

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THE HANDY BIOLOGY ANSWER BOOK
**By James Bobick, Naomi Balaban, Sandra Bobick,
and Laurel Bridges Roberts**

***From Darwin to Dolly—from statin drugs to stem cell therapy—
Today's hottest science explored and explained***

- *Which organism has the largest number of chromosomes?* Page 41
- *What are the most prevalent microbial diseases?* Page 121
- *What is the oldest genus of living trees?* Page 171

These are just a few of the questions posed by the wide-ranging new volume—

THE HANDY BIOLOGY ANSWER BOOK by James Bobick, Naomi Balaban, Sandra Bobick, and Laurel Bridges Roberts (Visible Ink Press / November 2004 / \$21.95 Paperback). During the last fifty years, the spectacular discoveries and achievements in molecular biology have altered our view of the world and driven a gene-based medical revolution. **Here, in plain but expert English, is a solid overview of the entire subject of biology with answers and explanations to more than 1,600 intriguing, unusual, most-asked, or difficult-to-answer questions.**

The questions are as varied as the topic itself, such as: *What is biotechnology? What is meiosis? Why does eating chocolate make some people feel good? Can we make artificial cells? Who was the first person to receive gene therapy? How sensitive is the hearing of birds? Why are big and fierce animals rare? What is acid rain? How is nuclear waste stored and regulated?* For most every biological puzzle, the authors have the answer.

This entertaining, informative, and easy-to-use book explores topics such as cell structure and function, genes and chromosomes, genetic engineering, viruses and bacteria, fungi, plant and animal structures and diversity, animal behavior, extinct and endangered plants and animals, evolution, and the environment. You'll also meet the scientists behind the breath-taking advances and become familiar with laboratory tools and techniques. (Over)

Starting with a 20-page chronological coverage of “Milestones of Major Events in Biology” (beginning in 530 B.C.E.), and moving through the Basics of Biology, there are answers and explanations filling this 565-page volume along with 150 illustrations and dozens of charts and tables. A 13-page “Further Reading” chapter explores not only books but websites for additional study.

For general science readers, students, teachers, reporters, and editors, *The Handy Biology Answer Book* unlocks doors, sheds light, solves problems, settles controversies, and answers questions. It’s a necessity for deciphering current events and making sense of new developments.

About the authors

James Bobick is Department Head in the Science and Technology Department at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. He’s been a science librarian for more than thirty years and has master’s degrees in biology and library science. **Naomi Balaban**, a science reference librarian for fifteen years, also works at the Carnegie Library. She coedited, with James Bobick, *The Handy Science Answer Book* and has a background in linguistics and a master’s degree in library science. A college biology teacher for fifteen years, **Sandra Bobick** currently teaches general biology and genetics at the Community College of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and coordinates a summer “Biotechnology Boot Camp” for middle school girls. She holds master’s degrees in biology and education and a doctoral degree in science education. **Laurel Bridges Roberts** has been a college biology instructor since 1992 and currently teaches introductory biology and human physiology at the University of Pittsburgh. She holds both master’s and doctoral degrees in behavioral ecology and has research experience in experimental pathology and molecular biology.

Note to editors and producers: To arrange an interview with the authors, contact Kae Tienstra at 610-395-6298, kt4pr@aol.com.

The Handy Biology Answer Book

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