prominent scientists in the area. These biographies include pioneering individuals from the early 1600s to the present day.

Prospective readers should understand that because this volume is an encyclopedia, there is insufficient space to provide in-depth information on any given topic. Little space is given to the discussion of controversies that may surround the selection of methods and reference data (or standards). Furthermore, articles are not referenced individually. However, an appendix is included with citations for further reading that is organized conveniently by topic. In addition, at the end of each chapter there are cross references to assist readers in search of related information within the volume.

Given that the intent of the editors was to provide a convenient resource for those interested in the extremely broad topic of human growth and development, the limitations of space and scope are easily overlooked. Anyone searching for a comprehensive review of our current knowledge in this rapidly growing field would find *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Human Growth and Development* to be well worth the purchase price.

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This handbook is a good summary of the role of vitamin A in cancer prevention. The book is well written and the content of the 10 separate sections is useful. The authors are recognized as major researchers in the field of vitamin A metabolism and cancer prevention. The first section provides the essence of needed chemical information on retinol, retinyl acetate, retinyl palmitate, retinaldehyde, and retinoic acid and their commercial sources. The second section provides a brief overview of the natural occurrence, production, use, and analyses of these compounds. Some information on stable-isotope analysis should have been included, even though this method is not widely available and is quite costly. A third section emphasizes metabolism kinetics and tissue distribution of vitamin A. This chapter is very complete and up-to-date, and should be useful for researchers, health care workers, and graduate students.

However, because the book is about vitamin A and cancer prevention, it would have been useful to include some discussion on how risk factors for cancer, such as chronic infection, malnutrition, alcohol consumption, and cigarette smoking interfere with vitamin A metabolism. A fourth section summarizes preventive effects of vitamin A in both humans and experimental models, as well as possible mechanisms of chemoprevention. A series of tables are provided that summarize the experimental studies of vitamin A in cancer. The discussion of mechanisms of chemoprevention falls short on recent advances in molecular mechanisms. Section 5 of the book provides a brief overview of other beneficial effects of vitamin A, such as on vision and infection, whereas sections 6 and 7 detail vitamin A carcinogenicity, toxicity, and teratogenesis. The final sections offer a summary of the data as well as recommendations for future research. This handbook serves as an important source of information on vitamin A and cancer prevention, and most workers in this field would benefit by owning a copy. In addition, the book provides useful teaching material for the classroom.

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