

About the Author

Ricki Lewis has built a multifaceted career around communicating the excitement of life science, especially genetics and biotechnology. She earned her Ph.D. in genetics in 1980 from Indiana University, working with homeotic mutations in *Drosophila melanogaster*.

Ricki is the author of *Life*, an introductory biology text; *Human Genetics: Concepts and Applications*; co-author of two human anatomy and physiology textbooks; and author of *Discovery: Explorations in the Life Sciences*, an essay collection about research and the nature of scientific investigation. As a Contributing Editor to *The Scientist*, a newspaper read by scientists worldwide, she writes frequently on the latest research and news in biotechnology. Since 1980, Ricki has published more than 3,000 articles in a variety of magazines, including a cover story on DNA fingerprinting in *Discover* and book reviews for *The New York Times*. Ricki participates in Science Forum, a monthly call-in science program on public radio, and is a frequent invited speaker. She is an adjunct professor at Miami University and the University at Albany, where she has taught a variety of life science courses, and also taught at Empire State College and several community colleges. She brought science experiments to grade school classrooms for three years as part of a traveling science museum, for which she obtained a Howard Hughes Med-



ical Institute grant. Ricki has been a genetic counselor for a large private medical practice in Schenectady, NY, since 1984, where she helps people make decisions about reproductive choices.

Ricki lives in upstate New York with chemist husband Larry, three daughters, four cats, two guinea pigs, a rat, hamster, tortoise, and hedgehog.