Preface

This special themed issue is dedicated to the founder of this Journal, Dr. Harold P. Klinger (1929–2004). Dr. Klinger devoted most of his research career to the study of the genetics of cancer. He was instrumental to the creation of this Journal and rounded out his very interesting and illustrious life by being an avid salmon fisherman. Many of us who were privileged to know him benefitted from both of his lives' passions. His faithful and tireless devotion to his research and this Journal along with the multitude of professional contributions have been enumerated in another issue of this Journal (Vol. 109(4), 2005). The efforts and contributions within our present volume are an added way to cherish and honor Dr. Klinger's many achievements in the area of genetic research.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Michael Schmid for his sage advice and constant support for the duration of the preparation of this issue. We also wish to thank the many investigators and clinicians who participated in this endeavor for their inspiring ideas and innovative contributions.

Advances in the area of cancer genomics have blossomed in the last decade as a result of an enormous diversity of technological advances. Momentous strides made in genome sequencing efforts have transformed this area of investigation in a significant fashion.

The papers contained in this volume represent the enormous progress made in recent years in the study of leukemias, lymphomas and solid tumors. We consider ourselves privileged to consolidate such a pivotal volume in cancer genomics as we feel it contains a compendium of information and knowledge that will impact the study of cancer for many years to come.

We have organized the papers to elicit the advances made in solid tumor exploration by placing these investigations at the beginning of the volume. In the past, solid tumor genomics has been a difficult area for investigations to yield much in the way of new information due to the difficulty in obtaining premalignant and early stage tumor samples from patients. Now with the availability of more sensitive diagnostic expertise and state of the art techniques, the number of samples obtainable at earlier and hence, more treatable stages, has significantly increased the success rate of tumor diagnoses. This needs to be emphasized in our approach to presenting this information to our readers.

The middle of the volume is devoted to investigations which have utilized some of the more refined and sensitive technologies now available to study cancer. And the latter part of the volume represents advances specifically in the investigation of leukemias and lymphomas.

All of the work presented in this volume represents just a small smattering of the continually expanding area of cancer genomic research, i.e., the collaboration of physicians, scientists, and everyone who is responsible for detecting, diagnosing and treating malignancies in patients with cancer. We also celebrate this work represented by a much improved quality of life and survival for patients with cancers of all kinds.

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