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Cell/Tissue Injury and Cytoprotection/Organoprotection in the Gastrointestinal Tract

Mechanisms, Prevention and Treatment

Volume Editors

Ludmila P. Filaretova  St. Petersburg
Koji Takeuchi  Kyoto

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Preface

Despite indubitable advances in understanding the mechanisms involved in gastrointestinal mucosal injury and protection as well as the development of successful strategies for prevention and treatment of the gastrointestinal injury, many people still suffer from the gastrointestinal damage over the world.

This volume of the Frontiers of Gastrointestinal Research series includes up-to-date reviews on the mechanisms of the gastrointestinal injury and protection. The papers published here were presented at the 6th International Symposium on Cell/Tissue Injury and Cytoprotection/Organoprotection – Focus on GI Tract –, which was held in St. Petersburg, Russia on October 12–14, 2011.

The symposium was another in a successful series of symposia held since 1986. This symposia series is the product of international cooperation and interdisciplinary communication between basic science and clinical investigators who demonstrate that controversies and scientific disputes are best resolved by open communication and display of new data. Actually, the series grew out of disputes over the role of intracellular calcium and phospholipase activation (Farber vs. Orrenius) in cell injury, and of prostaglandins vs. antioxidant sulfhydryls in cytoprotection (Robert vs. Szabo). The first article of this book is devoted to Andre Robert who discovered the phenomenon of gastric cytoprotection and was responsible for the origin of these symposia.

The 6th International Symposium was the 25th anniversary celebration of this symposia series. Distinguished scientists from different countries, USA, Canada, UK, Japan, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Norway, Ukraine and Russia, attended the symposium, presented new results on the mechanisms of the gastrointestinal injury and protection, discussed how the new findings about cell/tissue injury and cytoprotection/organoprotection can be applied to prevention and treatment of tissue damage in the gastrointestinal tract, and then reviewed the knowledge in the articles included in this volume. We hope that these articles will help readers to look to the past to understand how far we have come in this field of research and to look ahead into the future to view the development of strategies for prevention and treatment of gastrointestinal diseases from a new perspective.
We would like to express our deep gratitude to all the authors who kindly accepted our invitation to contribute to this book. We cordially thank Karger Publishers with a special note of sincere appreciation to Mr. Peter Roth and Ms. Tanja Sebuk for their cooperation in bringing out this book.

Ludmila P. Filaretova, St. Petersburg, Russia
Koji Takeuchi, Kyoto, Japan