Introduction

According to current WHO data, more than 600,000 people worldwide die every year from colorectal cancer. This number is expected to increase due to extended life expectancy, especially in Western countries. Although we now have a deeper understanding of carcinogenesis and molecular changes in colorectal cancer development, the way towards individualized, cancer-targeted and patient-oriented treatment still has some hurdles. Several of them have been cleared, but there are still a few to overcome.

In this context, we were highly honored to assemble the world's leading experts in the field of carcinogenesis, prevention and treatment of colorectal cancer during the 182nd Falk Symposium in Munich, Germany. Differentiated and up-to-date management of colorectal cancer is more than ever a field of interdisciplinary team-play and collaboration between surgeons, oncologists, radiologists, gastroenterologists and, last but not least, basic scientists.

The meeting was a remarkable success, with exquisite state-of-the-art lectures and fruitful discussions, reflected by the more than 700 participants from over 40 countries worldwide.

We are very pleased to provide you with a collection of most of the lectures and talks given during the conference. These articles from internationally renowned authors are of outstanding quality and importance and will provide you with the latest, state-of-the-art information regarding carcinogenesis, prevention and treatment of colorectal cancer.

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