TRBP
Dicer
AGO2
miRNA gene

• mRNA cleavage and degradation
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Transcription

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Drosha
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miRNA

miRNA duplex

AGO2

Guiding

Dicing

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Cytoplasm

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Hairpin loop
base mismatch

Ribosome

Target mRNA

RISC

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Translational repression
Providing an overview of the most recent advances and breakthrough developments

Hormone Resistance and Hypersensitivity
From Genetics to Clinical Management

Editors
Mohamad Maghnie
Sandro Loche
Marco Cappa
Lucia Ghizzoni
Renata Lorini

Over recent years, impressive advances in genetic/epigenetic technology have greatly improved the understanding of the pathogenesis of pediatric endocrine diseases due to hormone resistance and hypersensitivity. This book presents reviews of thyroid hormone and thyroid hormone receptor resistance, and genetics and epigenetics of parathyroid hormone resistance. Abnormalities of the pituitary-gonadal axis affecting puberty as well as androgen receptor are covered. Novel insights into the diseases affecting ACTH, glucocorticoid and aldosterone receptors are discussed. Further chapters address new aspects of the physiology of the GH and IGF-1 axis as well as the diseases related to GH-IGF-1 receptor and post-receptor signaling defects. A key chapter on metabolic insights into insulin resistance is also included. Covering clinical and genetic aspects of hormone resistance and hypersensitivity, this book will be a useful tool in the hands of scientists, physicians and other healthcare professionals who wish to be up to date with novel research findings in this area.

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A topical and comprehensive description of current developments in the pharmacological treatment of anxiety disorders

Anxiety Disorders
Editors
David S. Baldwin
Brian E. Leonard

Anxiety disorders are not uncommon and are often ‘comorbid’ with other forms of mental disorders. This publication provides an update on the origins and the causes of anxiety disorders and their related symptoms. Its focus is on neuroimaging and neuro-inflammation and genetics as well as areas where an overlap may exist with abnormal cardiovascular physiology. Further, it takes a closer look at the early phases of anxiety disorders and the potential effects of prolonged illness prior to diagnosis and also investigates recent research findings about the neuroimmunology of depression and the immunomodulatory effects of antidepressants. It also examines the neuroinflammatory hypothesis about anxiety disorders and concludes with the succinct but evidence-based and comprehensive reports on the value of pharmacological treatments used for generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, social anxiety disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

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Editors: G. Pfleiderer, M. Battegay, K. Lindpaintner
VI + 122 p., 4 fig., 2 in color, hard cover, 2012
CHF 59.– / EUR 49.– / USD 69.00

Based on the symposium ‘GenEthics and Religion’ (Basel, Switzerland, May 2008), this volume examines the role religion can play in establishing ethical guidelines to protect human life in the face of rapid advances in biology and gene technology. It does so with contributions by philosophers, theologians, human geneticists, and several bioethicists representing the Christian, Jewish, Islamic and Buddhist perspectives. The essays illustrating a diversity of views and expressing the problems and self-critical reflectiveness of religious ethicists are brought up to date and discuss the importance of religious ethics in society’s discourse on gene technology.

GenEthics and Religion
Editors: G. Pfleiderer, G. Brahier K. Lindpaintner
VI + 154 p., hard cover, 2010
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The certainty and uncertainty of one’s fate are discussed from both methodological and epidemiological perspectives, using examples of diseases for which treatment and prognosis have dramatically changed. Despite profound insights into the human genome, personalized genetically tailored medicine still lies in the future. Religious, spiritual and philosophical dimensions are discussed, as are the ways in which they may help people cope with these new insights into their future, e.g. the promise of an afterlife.

This publication aims to bridge the different fields dealing with this area by addressing the challenges faced and encouraging dialogue. It will be of interest to all readers who deal with ethical problems of prognosis, particularly in medicine, as well as to theologians and sociologists.

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Scientists and clinicians have long wondered how the human body ages. The recently deceased Nobel laureate and visionary of molecular biology, John Gurdon, was one of the first to understand that aging is not just about the passage of time. It is a process, driven by complex interactions between genetics, environment, and lifestyle, that can significantly impact health and longevity.

Aging is a multifaceted phenomenon, and it is important to understand that different species exhibit different maximal lifespans. For example, the fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster, which has a lifespan of only a few weeks, is an excellent model organism for studying the biological mechanisms of aging. On the other hand, the blue whale, the largest animal on Earth, has a lifespan of up to 200 years.

The question of whether having children is good for human survival is a matter of debate. Indeed, the presence of offspring can be a double-edged sword. While it can provide a sense of purpose and legacy, the demands of parenthood can also contribute to increased stress and shorter lifespans.

It is interesting to note that the human life expectancy has been shaped by evolution to become an important determinant of fitness. The concept of 'fitness' is both ecologically and evolutionarily effective, meaning that those who are better able to survive and reproduce are more likely to pass on their genes to the next generation.

The development of surgical techniques has been a significant factor in improving human survival. The introduction of anesthesia, for example, has greatly reduced the risk of death associated with surgery. The age-dependent loss of immune functions has also been a major contributor to the increased risk of death as people age.

It is important to remember that all these factors are not just random occurrences but are the result of complex interactions between genetics, environment, and lifestyle. Understanding these interactions is crucial to developing effective strategies for combating age-related diseases and improving human health and longevity.

Moreover, the pace of change in human lifestyle has increased significantly in recent times. We live under 21st century conditions with many indicators of evidence-based medicine. The rise of modern science and printing, together with their success, is a testament to the power of knowledge and its impact on society.

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