warnings and precautions. This is particularly important when the recommended agent is a new and/or infrequently employed drug.

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Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the Third International Conference on Tumor Necrosis Factor and Related Cytokines. This conference was organized under the leadership of Professor Toshiaki Osawa and the local organizing committee. The conference was held in Makuhari, Chiba, November 21-25, 1990, and was dedicated to the most recent advances in the field of TNF and related cytokines. The main topics covered areas that related to structure-function relationship, advances in the molecular characterization of TNF receptors, the role of TNF in various infectious and noninfectious diseases, the role of TNF in the development and differentiation of various tissues, and clinical application of TNF in diagnosis and therapy and the role of TNF and inhibitors in infectious diseases, autoimmune diseases, and cancer. The conference attracted several hundred participants from all over the world. Representatives from various research institutions and universities as well as pharmaceutical houses participated in the formal presentations and in the discussions of various topics at several workshops. The open discussion and participation of scientists of different background and expertise resulted in continued exchange of information and knowledge in the rapidly expanding field of cytokines as represented in this book by TNF.

The editors trust that the volume will serve as a useful resource both for established investigators and novices in the field and will provide selected highlights of the most recent advances made in the field as well as new directions. The editors also acknowledge the participation and effort of the International Organizing Committee and the local organizing committee. Also, the editors wish to acknowledge the various institutions that provided financial support. The excellent and professional assistance of Karger publishers is greatly appreciated.