Hemopoietic Growth Factors, Oncogenes and Cytokines in Clinical Hematology

Current Aspects and Future Directions

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Preface

This monograph proposes to summarize the current developments in our understanding of the biological and molecular cellular events which underlie the development of hemopoietic neoplasms. During the past few years, several significant discoveries have been reported concerning the role played by extracellular factors which govern the proliferation and differentiation of hemopoietic cells. The study of these has become an attractive field of investigation for hematologists, oncologists and immunologists alike. We and our collaborators have summarized these recent developments in this book.

The first part covers contributions relating to the cellular mechanisms regulating cellular proliferation in normal and neoplastic cells. Specifically, the cooperation between growth factors/cytokines and oncogenes in the development of hematological neoplasias is surveyed. In the second part of the book, we focus on the mechanisms leading to malignant cell transformation which are mediated by surface-membrane receptor stimulation and/or activation. The third part of the book is dedicated to a summary of the use of specific hemopoietic growth factors/cytokines in the management of lymphohemopoietic malignancies.

This book will give investigators, hematologists, oncologists and immunologists alike a departure point for the developing culture in the cellular mechanism of malignant blood diseases. The new directions in therapy which are made possible by this knowledge will help us launch new directions for the treatment of hemopoietic malignancies including gene therapy.

We wish to thank all of the contributors who gave their time to generate information contained within this book. To all of them we address our thanks. Our thanks are also addressed to the staff at S. Karger Publishers in Basel for their continuous encouragement during the completion of this book. We cannot conclude this foreword without thanking our secretaries Maria Grazia
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