# Preface

*Biology and Management of Multiple Myeloma* is intended to serve as an authoritative, comprehensive, and detailed interpretation of published studies related to this B cell malignancy.

The book, written by a group of international experts on this disease, should provide insights into the newest breakthroughs—from the basic pathogenesis to the clinical aspects of myeloma. The first part of the book is devoted to the biology of myeloma, where important discoveries have been made in the last few years, many of which are clinically relevant. The characteristics of the malignant cell are shown, and the important roles of oncogenic changes, chromosomal anomalies, Kaposi's sarcoma herpes virus, and cytokines are described. New epidemiological findings and prognostic factors are analyzed in subsequent chapters. The increasing importance of renal disease, anemia, and bone disease has provided a basis for the inclusion of chapters devoted to the etiology and treatment of these complications. A thorough analysis of conventional treatment regimens is provided, as well as discussion of newer experimental approaches involving immunologic targeting, inhibitors of drug resistance, and new anti-tumor agents. The role of high-dose therapy is discussed in the chapters on allogeneic and autologous transplantation.

We have tried to provide a thorough, objective overview of each area. We hope that this book provides the reader with a thorough understanding of where
myeloma research is in the clinic and research laboratory.

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