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## Preface

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States. Annually approximately 30,000 Americans are diagnosed with the disease and most will die from it within five years. Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma is unique because of its late onset in age, high mortality, small tumor samples infiltrated with normal cells, and a lack of both early detection and effective therapies. Some of these characteristics have made studying this disease a challenge.

Pancreatic cancer develops as a result of the accumulation of genetic alterations in cancer-causing genes, such as the oncogenes and the tumor-suppressor genes. In the last decade, major progress has been made in identifying important oncogenes and tumor-suppressor genes for the disease. In *Pancreatic Cancer: Methods and Protocols*, we review the classical techniques that have contributed to the advances in pancreatic research and introduce new strategies that we hope will add to future breakthroughs in the field of cancer biology.

*Pancreatic Cancer: Methods and Protocols* provides a broad range of protocols for molecular, cellular, pathological, and statistical analyses of sporadic and familial pancreatic cancer. It covers topics from in vitro cell cultures to in vivo mouse models, DNA to protein manipulation, and mutation analyses to treatment development. We believe that our book will prove an invaluable source of proven protocols for those who are interested in either basic or translational research in pancreatic cancer.

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Pancreatic Cancer

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