

PREFACE

Bone Metastasis: Experimental and Clinical Therapeutics is intended as an introduction to the molecular underpinnings of bone metastasis. Contributions from internationally recognized authorities on the fundamental concepts, current treatment approaches, and future therapeutic strategies provide a synopsis of bone metastasis. Our insights into the molecular mechanisms underlying the pathophysiology of bone metastasis are still evolving. These advances are driving the application of new therapeutic strategies directed at recently discovered molecular targets.

The first 11 chapters in *Bone Metastasis: Experimental and Clinical Therapeutics* focus on fundamental concepts associated with the process of metastasis. The roles of the various autocrine, paracrine, and immunological factors are intimately involved in the progression and establishment of bone metastases. Understanding these concepts has led to and will continue to provide novel approaches to their treatment. Chapters 12–19 discuss various strategies that appear to have promise and that are currently deployed in treatment or are at the experimental stage. Understanding of the physiological process that leads to bone degradation, pain, angiogenesis, and dysregulation of bone turnover by the tumor is critical. Thus, the treatment of bone metastases may need to be individualized, employing a combination of surgical, radiation, and/or pharmacological maneuvers. Further understanding of various pharmacogenomic parameters and tissue environmental factors is essential for progress beyond the current standard approaches of using radiation and/or bisphosphonates for palliation.

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