

Preface

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related mortality, killing more than the combined tolls of breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers. In spite of this, the number of investigators studying this disease and the volume of funding devoted to lung cancer lag far behind these common solid tumors and other less lethal diseases. Metastatic lung cancer is responsible for more than 90% of lung cancer-related deaths. However, relatively little progress has been made in understanding the process of metastasis. The two main aims of this book are (a) to introduce clinical concepts to basic scientists and basic molecular and cellular concepts to clinical investigators, in order to promote collaboration and foster much needed translational research and (b) to introduce new and emerging concepts and approaches in metastasis research to the lung cancer research community at large. To accomplish these goals, this book covers a broad spectrum of subjects ranging from current trends in the clinical management of metastatic disease to the systems biology approach for gaining insights into the mechanisms of metastasis. Some of the subjects covered include defining basic hallmarks of the metastatic process, the concept of tumor stem cells, epithelial–mesenchymal transitions, evasion of immune surveillance, tumor–stromal interactions, angiogenesis, molecular imaging, and biomarker discovery. Authors who are actively involved in lung cancer research or lung cancer patient care and have made original contributions in their area of expertise have written the chapters of this book. While seeking contributions, we realized how little we know about the various aspects that are covered, re-emphasizing the need for a book like this. We hope that this book will stimulate others to take up the investigation of lung cancer metastasis. In writing and editing the chapters, we have put forth our best effort to make the material accessible to graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and clinical fellows who are at the beginning of their careers, while maintaining utility for the more seasoned investigator. We hope that this book will provide a stimulating overview for both clinical and basic science investigators in the field of lung cancer research. Finally, we thank all the authors for their outstanding contributions in preparing this book.

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