

# Series Preface

The past two decades have seen an ever-accelerating growth in knowledge about molecular pathology of human diseases, which received a large boost with the sequencing of the human genome in 2003. Molecular diagnostics, molecular targeted therapy and genetic therapy, are now routine in many medical centers. The molecular field now impacts every field in medicine, whether clinical research or routine patient care. There is a great need for basic researchers to understand the potential clinical implications of their research whereas private practice clinicians of all types (general internal medicine and internal medicine specialists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, pediatricians, family practitioners), clinical investigators, pathologists and medical laboratory directors and radiologists require a basic understanding of the fundamentals of molecular pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment for their patients.

Traditional textbooks in molecular biology deal with basic science and are not readily applicable to the medical setting. Most medical textbooks that include a mention of molecular pathology in the clinical setting are limited in scope and assume that the reader already has a working knowledge of the basic science of molecular biology. Other texts emphasize technology and testing procedures without integrating the clinical perspective. There is an urgent need for a text that fills the gap between basic science books and clinical practice.

In the *Molecular Pathology Library* series, the basic science and the technology is integrated with the medical perspective and clinical application. Each book in the series is divided according to neoplastic and non-neoplastic diseases for each of the organ systems traditionally associated with medical subspecialties.

Each book in the series is organized to provide specific application of molecular pathology to the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of neoplastic and non-neoplastic diseases specific to each organ system. These broad section topics are broken down into succinct chapters to cover a very specific disease entity. The chapters are written by established authorities on the specific topic from academic centers around the world. In one book, diverse subjects are included that the reader would have to pursue from multiple sources in order to have a clear understanding of the molecular pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of specific diseases. Attempting to hunt for the full information from basic concept to specific applications for a disease from varied sources is time-consuming and frustrating. By providing this quick and user-friendly reference, understanding and application of this rapidly growing field is made more accessible to both expert and generalist alike.

As books that bridge the gap between basic science and clinical understanding and practice, the *Molecular Pathology Series* serves the basic scientist, the clinical researcher and the practicing physician or other health care provider who require more understanding of the application of basic research to patient care, from “bench to bedside.” This series is unique and an invaluable resource to those who need to know about molecular pathology from a clinical, disease-oriented perspective. These books will be indispensable to physicians and health care providers in multiple disciplines as noted above, to residents and fellows in these multiple disciplines as well as their teaching institutions and to researchers who increasingly must justify the clinical implications of their research.

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Molecular Pathology of Hematolymphoid Diseases

Dunphy, C.H. (Ed.)

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