
Preface

This book comprises a series of chapters describing conventional cytogenetic analysis methods, fluorescence in situ hybridization and array methods. All of these techniques have been presented in the context of their use in the diagnosis and investigation of different varieties of cancer. The authors of the different chapters have provided both standard methods and also extensive notes to guide individuals who are new to these methods through the pitfalls that bedevil all such testing. The experience of the authors should enable all testing to be readily transferable. Inevitably, there are some areas of repetition as the methods for preparing chromosomes for analysis in the setting of myelodysplastic syndromes are similar to those methods used to analyse chronic myeloid leukaemia or acute myeloid leukaemia. However, every laboratory uses slight variations in their methods, and it is these differences that should prove useful to both novice and experienced cytogeneticists. Hopefully, readers will be able to either establish new techniques in their laboratories or will find the different variations of standard methods helpful in improving their results.

The pace of change in scientific and medical research condemns most text books to being out of date by the time they are published. However, while some of the data presented here concerning the standard testing algorithms for different disorders may change with time, many of the methods have already withstood the test of time and will continue to provide useful information to cytogeneticists for some time to come.

I would like to thank my colleagues from around the world and also closer to home for their generous contributions to this volume. The cancer cytogenetics community is not a large one, and so it is possible to establish wonderful, productive collaborations around the globe. I have been fortunate indeed to gather together such an experienced group of individuals to share their knowledge.

Lastly, I would like to thank the staff of the Victorian Cancer Cytogenetics Service who, despite impossibly large workloads, have both contributed directly to the contents of this volume and made it possible for me to spend time assembling the book. They are an extremely talented and hardworking group of individuals for whom I am extremely grateful.

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