

Preface

Recent and emerging evidence shows that innate immunity is not simply providing first-line defense against infection or other types of insult. Innate immune mechanisms are critically involved in the development of adaptive immunity and additionally regulate diverse physiological and homeostatic processes, such as synapse maturation in the central nervous system, angiogenesis, mobilization of hematopoietic stem/progenitor cells, tissue regeneration, and lipid metabolism. Consequently, deregulation of the sensing or effector functions of innate immunity may lead to pathological disorders that are not necessarily or directly related to host defense. Leading scientists from around the world convened at the 7th International Aegean Conference on Innate Immunity in Rhodes, Greece (July 4–9, 2010) to discuss the latest advances in this rapidly evolving field. This volume represents a collection of topics on the biology of Toll-like and other pattern-recognition receptors, complement and its crosstalk with other physiological systems, inflammatory mechanisms and diseases, natural killer cells, cooperative interplay between innate and adaptive immune cells, and host-microbe interactions. Our sincere thanks to the contributing authors for the time and effort they have devoted to writing exceptionally informative chapters in a book that will have a significant impact on the field of innate immunity. We would also like to express our thanks to Dimitrios Lambris in managing the organization of this meeting. Finally, we also thank Samantha Lewis of Springer Publishers for her supervision in this book's production.

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