

# Preface

“Prostate Cancer: Towards the Molecular Pathology” is an ambitious title for an extraordinarily complex subject. This title symbolizes the purpose to offer a virtual journey on the bumpy roads that cross the morphological and molecular events underlying the metamorphosis of prostate tissue from normal to cancerous.

This book does not pretend to be a comprehensive opera, but aims to provide a description of the protean morphological, genetic and epigenetic events related to this process, supplying a *fil rouge* which may help the reader to orientate into this rapidly evolving field.

It is meant to propose a user-friendly approach to the integrated management of patients with prostate cancer, whether the reader comes from a background of urology, histopathology, molecular pathology, clinical and experimental oncology, or radiotherapy.

The topics, included in the different chapters of the book, will demonstrate that common morphological features may underlie different pathogenetic events, and that the resulting picture derives, ultimately, from the complex and variable interplay between a plethora of intersecting molecular pathways.

I am grateful to the friends and colleagues that authored these chapters.

They all shared my aim to offer their expertise to provide a synthetic, yet representative, up-to-date text on the most debated questions and promising trends concerning the morpho-molecular correlation in prostate cancer.

I wish to thank, also, the younger researchers who actively participated into this project with outgoing passion. We all hope that this book will provide the reader, whether clinician or laboratory worker, with the essential elements for a current approach to prostate cancer.

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