Preface

The journey of discovery of human tumor viruses has stretched over 100 years, from the discovery by Giuseppe Ciuffo of a very small transmissible agent in human warts in 1907, to the discovery of the merkel cell polyomavirus by Yuan Chang and Patrick Moore in 2008.

Now that the number of known human cancer viruses has grown to seven and the number of virus-associated tumors has grown to encompass tumors of lymph nodes, nasopharynx, liver, skin, cervix, smooth muscle, endothelium, and skin, it is clear that viruses play an important role in human cancer. In fact, it has been estimated that 15 % of all cases of human cancer are virus-related, with over one million new cases worldwide each year.

This text is designed to provide a comprehensive review of the seven currently known human tumor viruses and their associated cancers with an emphasis on viral pathogenesis, epidemiology, and clinicopathologic features of related tumors.

Two chapters are devoted to each virus—one chapter addresses viral pathogenesis and host response and a second chapter addresses epidemiology and disease associations. The chapters have been prepared by an international group of authors with expertise in their fields, and are generously illustrated with helpful tables and diagrams.

The text is designed to serve as a concise up-to-date review of the field of human tumor virology for students, physicians, and research scientists interested in these viruses and their associated tumors.

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