

Preface

The maintenance of immune homeostasis, as well as the induction and resolution of immune responses is tightly controlled by the balanced provision of stimulatory and regulatory signals. Interleukin (IL)-10 was identified in 1989, and is the best understood suppressive cytokines of the immune system. The studies described in this volume provide a large overview of our current knowledge on this factor. The topics discussed range from the implication of IL-10 in human intestinal inflammatory diseases, its role during infectious diseases, the regulation of its expression, the biology of IL-10-producing T and B cells, the molecular properties of its receptor, and the different functions of another cytokine of the IL-10 family, namely IL-22. These chapters emphasize how studies performed in animal models and human diseases complement each other to accelerate the inseparable progresses needed in fundamental and therapeutic concepts. Many questions remain to be answered on how this cytokine contributes to immune regulation, and we hope this book will help to tackle these issues.

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