

# Preface

Recent advances in molecular biology have resulted in the mechanisms responsible for cancer progression being elucidated in detail, and molecular targeted drugs are now used in the treatment of various malignant diseases. Analyses of the molecular backgrounds of tumors are indispensable for the diagnosis and precise treatment of cancer. However, tumor-specific and comprehensive mechanisms are involved in these processes.

This book focuses on these issues and provides information from the viewpoint of molecular biology and its clinical applications. The molecular mechanisms of thoracic and gastrointestinal malignancies and their clinical applications are also outlined. This book is primarily for clinical oncologists but is also relevant to basic oncologists. It may also attract clinicians who have an interest in this field and are considering the initiation of molecular diagnoses and targeted therapies.

Although several good textbooks are currently available on molecular diagnoses and targeted therapies, our book places a strong emphasis on clinical applications from the viewpoint of oncologists specializing in specific organs. Furthermore, we focus on the role of molecular diagnoses and targeted therapies in the course of surgical treatment.

We hope this book will provide timely and useful information to clinicians.

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Molecular Diagnosis and Targeting for Thoracic and  
Gastrointestinal Malignancy

Shimada, Y.; Yanaga, K. (Eds.)

2018, VIII, 156 p. 42 illus., 35 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-981-10-6468-5