Preface

David J. McConkey • Colin Dinney

Published online: 16 December 2009
© Springer Science+Business Media, LLC 2009

Although urothelial carcinoma is a significant health threat to the U.S. population, integrated clinical and laboratory investigations of this disease have lagged behind those of other forms of cancer. Rapid advances in our understanding of cancer biology have not been translated into improved patient care. Ongoing interactions between clinical investigators and laboratory scientists who study genitourinary malignancies are crucial to accelerate this progress as increased understanding of the genetic and molecular mechanisms underlying the genesis of bladder cancer will lead to the development of molecular markers of risk, progression and therapeutic response and early stage clinical trials of promising novel therapeutic agents based on this information. We also encourage industry's continued participation in the process.

D. J. McConkey (✉)
Department of Urology and Cancer Biology,
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center,
Houston, TX 77030, USA
e-mail: dmconke@mdanderson.org

C. Dinney
Department of Urology,
1515 Holcombe Boulevard,
Houston, TX 77030, USA

This volume provides a perfect forum for discussion of the critical research areas that demand more effective translation into clinical application in order to improve the outcome of patients with urothelial carcinoma. We have organized the content so that it roughly follows the sequence of disease progression and clinical translation. Chapters 1–3 deal with various aspects of the origins of disease, focusing on epigenetic features implicated in cancer risk and response to conventional therapies, stem cells, what mouse models have taught us about the molecular events underlying the two major “tracks” of disease progression, and what recent work suggests about the stem cells that give rise to the disease. Chapters 4–7 review new molecular insights into the mechanisms underlying disease progression and metastasis, and Chapters 8 and 9 discuss current and emerging opportunities for biology-based therapy of the disease.

Although this issue of *Cancer and Metastasis Reviews* contains an impressive cross section of many of the major contributors to the field of urothelial cancer research, there are many more prominent investigators whose work is not represented here. Among the most notable of these omissions is the work of Carlos Cordon-Cardo, who lost his wife as this volume was being assembled. We are all extremely sorry for his loss and pledge our support as he endures this terrible transition. This volume is dedicated to him.