2nd edition



# Molecular Pathology

### The Molecular Basis of Human Disease



Edited by William B. Coleman Gregory J. Tsongalis

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## Molecular Pathology

# The Molecular Basis of Human Disease

SECOND EDITION

Editors

William B. Coleman

Gregory J. Tsongalis

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### Dedication

The wealth of information contained in this textbook represents the culmination of innumerable small successes that emerged from the ceaseless pursuit of new knowledge by countless experimental pathologists working around the world on all aspects of human disease. Their ingenuity and hard work have dramatically advanced the field of molecular pathology over time and in particular in the last three decades. This book is a tribute to the dedication, diligence, and perseverance of the individuals who have contributed to the advancement of our understanding of the molecular basis of human disease, especially the graduate students, laboratory technicians, and postdoctoral fellows, whose efforts are so frequently taken for granted, whose accomplishments are so often unrecognized, and whose contributions are so quickly forgotten.

The second edition of Molecular Pathology: The Molecular Basis of Human *Disease* is dedicated to the memory of Oliver Smithies, DPhil, Weatherspoon Eminent Distinguished Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine (Chapel Hill, NC) who passed away on January 10, 2017 at the age of 91 years. Dr. Smithies was a cherished colleague to everyone at UNC and renowned for his gentle character, generous spirit, infectious curiosity, and passion for science. He was a friend to all and eager to help others succeed. Dr. Smithies was also a giant in the field of genetics who made numerous seminal discoveries over the course of his lifelong career (over 70 years at the bench). In 2007, he was a corecipient of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for his contributions to the development of techniques for homologous recombination, which enable genetic modification of mammalian cells. These techniques provide the methodological foundation for engineered (transgenic and knockout) animal models of disease, which have been so valuable in the study of human diseases. Despite his tremendous accomplishments, status in the

field, and numerous awards and honors, Dr. Smithies was unpretentious and approachable. We are proud to have known him for many years and for the example he provided for us and so many others as a distinguished and accomplished experimental pathologist and a genuinely good person. Even though he is gone, Dr. Smithies continues to inspire generations of scientists who were fortunate enough to have known him to do their best work.

We also dedicate the second edition of *Molecular Pathology: The Molecular* Basis of Human Disease to the many people who have played crucial roles in our successes. We thank our many scientific colleagues, past and present, for their camaraderie, collegiality, and support. We especially thank our scientific mentors for their example of research excellence. We are truly thankful for the positive working relationships and friendships that we have with our faculty colleagues. We also thank our students for teaching us more than we may have taught them. We thank our parents for believing in higher education, for encouragement through the years, and for helping our dreams into reality. We thank our brothers and sisters, and extended families, for the many years of love, friendship, and tolerance. We thank our wives, Monty and Nancy, for their unqualified love, unselfish support of our endeavors, understanding of our work ethic, and appreciation for what we do. Lastly, we give a special thanks to our children, Tess, Sophie, Pete, and Zoe. Their achievements and successes as young adults are a greater source of pride for us than our own accomplishments. As when they were children, we thank them for providing an unwavering bright spot in our lives, for their unbridled enthusiasm and boundless energy, and for giving us a million reasons to take an occasional day off from work just to have fun. Now that they are older, we cherish their friendship and value their companionship.

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### Preface

Pathology is the study of disease. The field of pathology emerged from the application of the scientific method to the study of human disease. Thus, pathology as a discipline represents the complementary intersection of medicine and basic science. Early pathologists were typically practicing physicians who described the various diseases that they treated and made observations related to factors that contributed to the development of these diseases. The description of disease evolved over time from gross observation to microscopic inspection of diseased tissues based on the light microscope and more recently to the ultrastructural analysis of disease with the advent of the electron microscope. As hospital-based and community-based registries of disease emerged, the ability of investigators to identify factors that cause disease and assign risk to specific types of exposures expanded to increase our knowledge of the epidemiology of disease. Although descriptive pathology can be dated to the earliest written histories of medicine and the modern practice of diagnostic pathology dates back perhaps 200 years, the elucidation of mechanisms of disease and linkage of disease pathogenesis to specific causative factors emerged more recently from studies in experimental pathology. The field of experimental pathology embodies the conceptual foundation of early pathology — the application of the scientific method to the study of disease—and applies modern investigational tools of cell and molecular biology to advanced animal model systems and studies of human subjects. The molecular era of biological science began over 60 years ago, whereas recent advances in our knowledge of molecular mechanisms of disease have propelled the field of molecular pathology. These advances were facilitated by significant improvements and new developments associated with the techniques and methodologies available to pose questions related to the molecular biology of normal and diseased states affecting cells, tissues, and organisms. Today, molecular pathology encompasses the investigation of the molecular mechanisms of disease and interfaces with translational medicine where new basic science discoveries form the basis for the development of new strategies for disease prevention, new therapeutic approaches and targeted therapies for the treatment of disease, and new diagnostic tools for disease diagnosis and prognostication.

With the remarkable pace of scientific discovery in the field of molecular pathology, basic scientists, clinical scientists, and physicians have a need for a source of information on the current state of the art of our understanding of the molecular basis of human disease. More importantly, the complete and effective training of today's graduate students, medical students, postdoctoral fellows, and others, for careers related to the investigation and treatment of human disease, requires textbooks that have been designed to reflect our current knowledge of the molecular mechanisms of disease pathogenesis, as well as emerging concepts related to translational medicine. Most pathology textbooks provide information related to diseases and disease processes from the perspective of description (what does it look like and what are its characteristics), risk factors, disease-causing agents, and to some extent, cellular mechanisms. However, most of these textbooks lack in-depth coverage of the molecular mechanisms of disease. The reason for this is primarily historical—most major forms of disease have been known for a long time, but the molecular basis of these diseases is not always known or has been elucidated only very recently. However, with rapid progress over time and improved understanding of the molecular basis of human disease, the need emerged for new textbooks on the topic of molecular pathology, where molecular mechanisms represent the focus.

In this second edition of Molecular Pathology: The Molecular Basis of Human Disease, we have assembled a group of experts to discuss the molecular basis and mechanisms of major human diseases and disease processes, presented in the context of traditional pathology, with implications for translational molecular medicine. This volume is intended to serve as a multiuse textbook that would be appropriate as a classroom teaching tool for medical students, biomedical graduate students, allied health students, and others (such as advanced undergraduates). Furthermore, this textbook will be valuable for pathology residents and other postdoctoral fellows who desire to advance their understanding of molecular mechanisms of disease beyond what they learned in medical/graduate school. In addition, this textbook is useful as a reference book for practicing basic scientists and physician scientists who perform disease-related basic science and translational research, who require a ready information resource on the molecular basis of various human diseases and disease states. To be sure, our understanding of the many causes and molecular mechanisms that govern the development of human diseases is far from complete. Nevertheless, the amount of information related to these molecular mechanisms has increased tremendously in recent years, and areas of thematic and conceptual consensus have emerged. We have made an effort to integrate accepted principles with broader theoretical concepts in an attempt to present a current and comprehensive view of the molecular basis of human disease. We hope that this second edition of *Molecular Pathology*: The Molecular Basis of Human Disease will accomplish its purpose of providing students and researchers with indepth coverage of the molecular basis of major human diseases in the context of traditional pathology so as to stimulate new research aimed at furthering our understanding of these molecular mechanisms of human disease and advancing the theory and practice of molecular medicine.

William B. Coleman Gregory J. Tsongalis

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