

FROM INFLAMMATION TO CANCER

Advances in Diagnosis and
Therapy for Gastrointestinal and
Hepatological Diseases

Editors

Chi Hin Cho
Jun Yu

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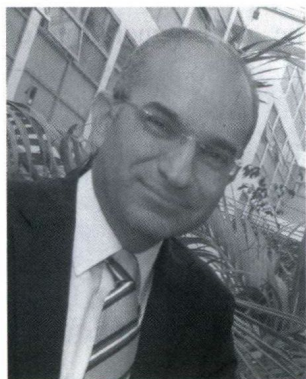
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Foreword



Inflammation is often regarded by biologists as an adaptation of the organism to the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. To clinicians, however, inflammation is a means to an end: healing. Unfortunately, this healing may never occur especially if the initial injury, be it microbial, chemical or physical, persists. This protracted inflammation, which is termed chronic, can cause considerable damage to the host and may even kill it. The role of chronic inflammation in cancer was perhaps first

described by Marjolin in 1828 but it is the German physician and father of modern pathology Rudolf Ludwig Virchow whose name is more commonly associated with this observation. It is now well established that almost all organs in the body that suffer from chronic inflammation are at increased risk of cancer. The gastrointestinal tract in particular bears the lion's share of this inflammation-induced cancer burden. Modern science has allowed the molecular mechanisms involved in inflammation-induced cancer to be elucidated and the next few years will witness a huge translational benefit from this knowledge. From a public health perspective, acceptance of the role of inflammation in cancer, through rigorous well-conducted science, will act as a stimulus for implementing strategies to reduce it. Thus, strategies to combat chronic infections, adopt healthy anti-inflammatory diets, encourage regular physical activity and perhaps the development of safe and cheap chemopreventive agents will all act to reduce the huge burden of cancer on society.

For most scientists and clinicians it is essential to keep abreast of the latest advances in this story. The book by Cho and Yu is an excellent compendium of the latest knowledge in this subject, as it pertains to the gastrointestinal tract and liver. It is written by experts in the field and spans the basic and clinical disciplines effortlessly and comprehensively. It is focused on mechanistic insight and translational relevance, precisely the combination that is essential in advancing this field. This book represents state-of-the-art knowledge on many aspects of inflammation-induced cancer and should be essential reading for researchers, both basic and clinical, gastroenterologists, oncologists, internists, and indeed any cancer scientists. It is essential to inspire the next generation of researchers to continue the fight against cancer and this book offers many inspiring success stories. I have no doubt that it will have a major impact in the field and this will ultimately benefit cancer patients and society at large.

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Prof. C. H. Cho started his academic career from 1978 in Canada. He moved on to Taiwan in 1981 and returned to Hong Kong in 1984. Currently, Prof. Cho is the Professor of Pharmacology and Associate Director of the School of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He was the Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology from 2007 to 2009 in the same University and Chair Professor of Pharmacology in the University of Hong Kong from 2000 to 2006. He has

been President of the Gastrointestinal Pharmacology Section of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology since 2006. Prof. Cho is a member of editorial boards, associate editor and editor of more than 25 national and international journals in the areas of biomedical sciences, pharmacology and gastroenterology.

**Prof. Jun YU****Prof. Jun YU**

Prof. Jun Yu completed her MD and PhD at Tongji Medical University and then she embarked on her career as a gastrointestinal specialist in the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, the Second affiliated Hospital, Beijing University. She undertook postdoctoral research in the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the University of Dresden and University of Magdeburg, Germany and subsequently in the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, CUHK. She worked as a Senior Research

Officer at Storr Liver Unit, Westmead Hospital, University of Sydney. She returned to Hong Kong in 2005 and currently she is a Professor at Institute of Digestive Disease and Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her research interests are mainly on (1) identification of the epigenetic and genetic alterations in relation to the mechanisms of pathogenesis, early diagnosis and prognostic prediction of gastrointestinal cancers, and (2) murine non-alcohol steatohepatitis (NASH) in relation to the mechanisms of development of experimental NASH, and treatment response.

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Section I

Inflammation and Cancer

