Hormones and Cancer 2

Proceedings of the Second International Congress

Progress in Cancer Research and Therapy Volume 31

Hormones and Cancer 2

Proceedings of the Second International Congress on Hormones and Cancer

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Vol. 31:	Hormones and Cancer 2: Proceedings of the Second International Congress of Hormones and Cancer
	Francesco Bresciani, Roger J.B. King, Marc E. Lippman, Moise Namer, and Jean-Pierre Raynaud, editors, 1984
Vol. 30:	Gene Transfer and Cancer Mark L. Pearson and Nat L. Sternberg, editors, 1984
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Preface

Confronted by the question of defining the major research areas encompassed by the expression "Hormones and Cancer," most people would respond: hormone action at a cellular level, hormonal abnormalities either causing cancers or vice-versa, clinical use of hormones, and the development of hormone-resistant tumors from previously sensitive counterparts.

This volume covers these areas in varying degrees. Since we are in the era of molecular biology, that discipline assumes prominence with respect to topics such as oncogenes, gene cloning, and molecular structure of receptors. Cellular biology is well represented, especially in the chapters dealing with hormonal control of cell proliferation. The seemingly inevitable progression from the responsible to autonomous state exhibited by the major endocrine-sensitive tumors of humans remains a baffling phenomenon, but we are beginning to recognize that such autonomy can be attained via different mechanisms, not all of which involve the classical target cell itself.

Inevitably in books on the subject of hormones and cancer, leukemia and cancers of the breast, female reproductive tract, and prostate receive the most attention, and this treatise is no exception. In addition, the novel peptide hormone production by tumors previously considered to be nonhormone producing receives consideration. The clinical aspects discussed in these sections are supplemented by a review of the interrelationship of hormone and chemotherapy in the treatment of breast cancer.

This volume contains research-type chapters interspersed with chapters of a more general appeal; basic science predominates but clinical practice is not neglected.

This volume will be of interest to both scientists and clinicians interested in the pathogenesis and therapy of endocrine related cancers.

The Editors

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