
Preface

Basic research into the B-cell malignancies has often provided important insights into the pathogenesis of human cancer. Although a range of potentially curative therapeutic options has become available for patients with lymphoma, there is as yet no therapy that could be considered curative for patients with multiple myeloma. During the last decade, an increased focus on research into multiple myeloma has resulted in significant advances in our understanding of the abnormalities in cytogenetics, molecular rearrangements, intra- and intercellular signaling, gene expression, and cell survival pathways. Recent research has gained considerable momentum and there is currently a real prospect of applying these new discoveries to achieve a significant improvement in the response to therapy.

From the classic Plasma Cell Labeling Index methodology, which is used routinely in many laboratories around the world to determine prognosis, through to a final chapter on “Making Sense of Microarrays,” *Multiple Myeloma: Methods and Protocols* details with step-by-step instructions a series of classic and proven methodologies which have been, and can continue to be, used in many laboratories for the investigation of this disease. As is usual for volumes in this series, a most helpful feature is the authors’ Notes, which appear at the end of each chapter.

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