

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910826161303321
Titolo	Translational pathology of early cancer [[electronic resource] /] / edited by Sudhir Srivastava and William E. Grizzle
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam ; ; Washington, D.C., : IOS Press, c2012
ISBN	6613556491 1-280-37858-1 9786613556493 1-61499-024-7
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (562 p.)
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Disciplina	616.9 616.9/101
Soggetti	Cancer Tumors Carcinogenesis
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Title Page; Contents; Editorial - Translational Pathology of Early Cancer; Scientific Concepts, Pathology and Genetics of Early Cancer; Translational Pathology of Neoplasia; The Biology of Incipient, Pre-Invasive or Intraepithelial Neoplasia; Biomarkers and the Genetics of Early Neoplastic Lesions; Cancer Stem Cells and Markers: New Model of Tumorigenesis with Therapeutic Implications; DNA Methylation in Early Neoplasia; Molecular Cytogenetic Evidence for Multistep Tumorigenesis: Implications for Risk Assessment and Early Detection Noncoding RNAs in Molecular Characterization of Cancer PreneoplasiaStromal-Epithelial Interactions in Early Neoplasia; Molecular Pathology; Molecular Pathology and Biomarkers of Bladder Cancer; Biologic Characteristics of Premalignant Breast Disease; Central Nervous System; Molecular and Genetic Basis of Childhood Cancer; Development and Progression of Colorectal Neoplasia; The Molecular Pathology of Cutaneous Melanoma; Molecular Pathogenesis of Endometrial and Ovarian Cancer; Early Events During Neoplastic

Progression in Barrett's Esophagus

Molecular Changes in the Multistage Pathogenesis of Head and Neck Cancer; Pathogenesis of Early Leukemia and Lymphoma; Hepatocellular Carcinoma of the Liver; Preneoplasia of Lung Cancer; Micrometastasis: Detection Methods and Clinical Importance; Molecular Pathology of Early Pancreatic Cancer; Molecular Pathology of Prostate Cancer; Renal Cell Carcinoma; The Molecular Pathology of Sarcomas; Stomach - Genetic and Epigenetic Alterations of Preneoplastic and Neoplastic Lesions; Enabling Resources; Bioinformatics: Biomarkers of Early Detection

Issues in Collecting, Processing and Storing Human Tissues and Associated Information to Support Biomedical Research; Author Index; Subject Index

Sommario/riassunto

The visual pathologic features of tumors have always been the critical parameters in determining tumor type; however, over the last several decades molecular analysis of tumors has played an increasing role in the diagnostic pathology of tumors; thus, "molecular pathology" has gradually emerged as a discipline in pathology which exploits the use of nucleic acid based techniques. The purpose of this Handbook is to discuss the principles and the application of selected existing methods of molecular pathology and its use in the detection of early cancer. It will describe the molecular changes that characterize preinvasive neoplastic lesions, molecular targets for early detection, validation of molecular targets and areas of new diagnostic technology that show promise either for early detection of neoplasias or other medically important uses in cancer prevention and care. The book describes recent advances in proteomics, metabolomics, stem cells research, micro RNA and other posttranslational molecular modifications; all these will serve the pressing needs in the development of the practice of personalized medicine. The book is divided into three sections that follow a sequence from basic mechanisms of tumor development, through the molecular and biological abnormalities found in common types of cancers, to the technologies which are most applicable to detecting these biologic alterations in precancerous lesions. Each chapter discusses the scientific underpinnings of the evolution and progression of tumors in order to enable clinicians and other professionals who manage cancer patients to better understand the disease at the molecular and genetic levels.
