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AND AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES: RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS -- ESTROGEN AND OSTEOARTHRITIS -- CONCLUSION -- COMPETING INTERESTS -- REFERENCES -- Chapter 4: ESTROGEN IN REGULATING THE GENDER DISPARITY OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA -- ABSTRACT -- INTRODUCTION -- HCC OCCURS PREFERENTIALLY IN MALES, WITH THE SEX DIFFERENCE STARTING FROM CHRONIC HEPATITIS -- THE INVOLVEMENT OF ANDROGEN AXIS IN PROMOTING MALE HCC -- THE INVOLVEMENT OF ESTROGEN AXIS IN PROTECTING FEMALE HCC: EPIDEMIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE AND ANIMAL STUDIES -- WILD TYPE AND VARIANT ESTROGEN RECEPTORS IN NORMAL AND HCC LIVER TISSUES -- MOLECULAR MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTIVE ROLE OF ESTROGEN AXIS IN FEMALE HCC. THE MECHANISMS OF ESTROGEN AXIS IN PREVENTING HEPATIC FIBROSIS AND STEATOSIS -- THE REGULATORY MECHANISMS FOR THE DOWN-REGULATION OF ER $\alpha$  IN FEMALE HCC -- THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE HEPATITIS VIRUS B AND ESTROGEN PATHWAY -- CONCLUSION -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- REFERENCES -- Chapter 5: POST-TRANSCRIPTIONAL EFFECTS OF ESTROGENS ON GENE EXPRESSION: MESSENGER RNA STABILITY AND TRANSLATION REGULATED BY MICRORNAS AND OTHER FACTORS -- ABSTRACT -- INTRODUCTION -- ESTROGENS STABILIZE AND DESTABILIZE SPECIFIC MRNAs -- ESTROGENS AFFECT MRNA TRANSLATION -- ESTROGEN ACTIONS AND MICRORNAs -- MicroRNAs - Biogenesis and Regulation of Gene Expression -- Estrogens Regulate Expression of MicroRNA Genes in Responsive Tissues during Normal Physiology and Disease -- MicroRNAs Regulate ER Gene Expression and Estrogen Actions -- FUTURE THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES TO REGULATING POST-TRANSCRIPTIONAL ESTROGEN ACTIONS -- CONCLUSION -- REFERENCES -- INDEX.

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