Preface

The past few years have seen a revolution in the molecular pathology of lung cancer, including exciting advances in predictive biomarker testing and molecular targeted therapy. Clinical trials in 2009 demonstrated the superiority of tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy to conventional chemotherapy in patients with advanced lung cancers with activating epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutations. Response to anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) inhibitor was demonstrated in patients whose lung cancers contained ALK fusion genes in 2010. These and other advances have led to a proposed new classification of adenocarcinoma of the lung by the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer in February 2011 and Lung Cancer Predictive Biomarker Guidelines to be published by the College of American Pathologists, the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer and the Association for Molecular Pathology in 2012. This breathtaking chain of events is the impetus for the publication of this book, *Molecular Pathology of Lung Cancer*, in the Molecular Pathology Library series. The editors have been involved in both original research on these topics and in the expert panel for biomarker guidelines referred to above. Our objective is to provide the reader with a basis for understanding current concepts in the molecular pathology of lung cancer in keeping with the aspirations of this book series.

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