My goal for this textbook is to provide an overview of the discipline of hematopathology that connects the field with recent advances in immunology research and with current clinical practice in the treatment of lymphomas and leukemias. With separate sections on laboratory techniques, diagnostic hematopathology, treatment, and stem cell transplantation, this book is designed to be useful for both trainees and specialists in pathology and hematology-oncology. We have also summarized the current directions in translational research that will be of most interest to experienced hematopathologists and scientists working in lymphoma and leukemia biology.

The terminology and diagnostic categories used are those of the 4th World Health Organization (WHO) Classification of Tumors of Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues, which was released in late 2008. However, the chapter authors also provide a clinical and experimental context for this classification and point out areas where improvements are needed. A study guide is provided which highlights central concepts from each chapter to make the book suitable for boards review in hematopathology and hematology-oncology. The concluding chapter attempts to connect broad swaths of cancer biology and immunology with the trend towards individualized risk prediction and therapeutics (i.e. personalized medicine).

No area of pathology currently encompasses as many disparate disciplines as hematopathology, including laboratory medicine, molecular diagnostics, surgical pathology, clinical hematology and translational science. For this reason, I believe there is a need for a broader approach to the diagnostic endeavor that encompasses other approaches and concerns. My reasons for taking this more multidisciplinary approach arise out of my interactions over the last 10 years with my clinical colleagues at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in the departments of Leukemia, Lymphoma, and Stem Cell Transplantation, all of whom have helped me focus on the elements of diagnosis that most impact clinical care. I am grateful to have some of those colleagues joining me as coauthors to provide their insights into treatment. My interest in linking diagnostics more closely with clinical management was also shaped by my training at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston where I had three terrific role models in this regard in Geraldine Pinkus, Chris Fletcher, and Ramzi Cotran.

For their constant support of my work, I dedicate this book to my parents, Bernice Katz Jones and Professor Richard Victor Jones, whose boundless intellectual curiosity remains a continuing source of inspiration for me. I thank all the authors for their outstanding contributions and for their willingness to participate in this type of multi-disciplinary project. I also greatly appreciate the editorial assistance of Frances Louie at Humana Press and Sundardevadoss Dharmendra at SPI, as well as Brian Stewart, Jenna Boatright, Lakisha Rodgers, Orelia Kelly, and Steven Reyes at M.D. Anderson. Finally, I am greatly indebted to Roberto Miranda for his expert assistance with chapter review and editing.

Houston, TX

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Neoplastic Hematopathology
Experimental and Clinical Approaches
Jones, D. (Ed.)
2010, XV, 644 p., Hardcover
A product of Humana Press