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## **Preface**

Laser microdissection techniques have revolutionized the ability of researchers in general, and pathologists in particular, to carry out molecular analysis on specific types of normal and diseased cells and to fully utilize the power of current molecular technologies, including PCR, microarrays, and proteomics. The primary purpose of the second edition of this volume of *Methods in Molecular Biology* is to provide the reader with practical advice on how to carry out tissue-based laser microdissection successfully in their own laboratory using the different laser microdissection systems that are available and to apply a wide range of molecular technologies. The individual chapters encompass detailed descriptions of the individual laser-based microdissection systems. The downstream applications of the laser microdissected tissue described in the book include PCR in its many different forms as well as gene expression analysis, including the application to microarrays and proteomics.

The editor is especially grateful to all the contributing authors for the time and effort they have put into the individual chapters. The series editor John Walker has provided expert guidance through the editorial process while colleagues at Springer have been very helpful in dealing with all the publication related issues.

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Methods and Protocols

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