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## Preface

# **Molecular Staging of Cancer – 2nd International Conference 22–26 June, 2006 – A meeting co-organized by Klinikum Mannheim, University Heidelberg and DKFZ (German Cancer Research Center) Heidelberg, Germany**

There is an overwhelming development in the field of molecular characterization of tumor diseases, especially considering powerful high-throughput screening methods for molecular tumor characterization, imaging, attempts for molecular targeting strategies, innovative bioinformatic approaches to analyze large amounts of molecular data in tumor diseases, and translational research aiming at a highly efficient transfer of basic molecular research into clinical and therapeutic applications. As well, there are increasing attempts to strengthen interactions between Universities and Companies to accelerate innovative developments, for an advanced benefit of patients. Interdisciplinary and international interactions are increasingly necessary for a concerted approach to develop new concepts of cancer diagnosis, staging and therapy. Therefore, the 2nd International Conference on Molecular Staging of Cancer will offer a discussion platform, focusing on the aforementioned topics and giving the latest status of molecular staging in the most prominent types of human cancer, for internationally well-known experts and interested colleagues out of different fields in basic cancer research, clinical and surgical oncologists, prominent representatives of the industry, and institutions trying to strengthen networks between universities and companies. In addition, the meeting offers a special session on the topic of Comprehensive Cancer Centers and their decisive importance for a state-of-the-art cancer research, diagnosis and innovative therapy.

Many well-known experts from all over the world have confirmed their participation as keynote lecturers and invited speakers, and many interactive special sessions will present the latest developments in the field of targeted therapy. In

addition, we are happy to report that we registered a considerable number of abstract submissions, reflecting the high interest and the fascination which the topic of molecular tumor staging raises in the scientific community. Submitted abstracts, after successful peer-review, will be presented at the meeting in lively Discussion Sessions. At this point, I would like to thank all my co-chairs, co-organizers and sponsors, especially my co-chair Christian Manegold and my assistant Erika Hillerich, for their dedicated work and help to make this meeting happen. Furthermore, I thank Dr. Dessislava Nikolowa for her considerable efforts in helping to put together this abstract book.

I am convinced, and I wish us all, that we will have a fruitful and lively meeting, experience high-level scientific discussions, and lay the ground for intense multidisciplinary interactions and collaborations, which finally will lead to the benefit of a much more rapid and efficient transfer of molecular knowledge into diagnosis and therapy of our cancer patients.

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