

Overview

As did the previous twelve special issues on chemoprevention, this volume and its companion describe progress in the growing field of cancer chemoprevention. Particularly, these two new volumes reflect the increased attention by basic science and clinical researchers world-wide to the study of chemopreventive mechanisms and the development of chemopreventive agents for clinical trials, and ultimately for public use.

The focus of the two volumes is research presented at an international cancer chemoprevention conference held in Beijing, China, October 13–16, 1996, and attended by scientists from the US, China, Japan and Korea. This conference laid the groundwork for potential collaborations among the participants to advance chemoprevention. Important work is being done in the three Asian countries to characterize natural products with chemopreventive potential and to identify homogeneous populations with environmental exposures, cultural traits and genetic backgrounds predisposing them to cancers. Such cohorts are necessary for the successful evaluation of chemopreventive strategies. The studies in Asia complement research and experience in the US in clinical trial design, drug development and intermediate biomarkers. As a result of this meeting, three joint US-China studies on preclinical and clinical aspects of chemoprevention have already been implemented and are flourishing.