

Basic and molecular studies of the skeletal remodeling system have produced a wealth of new information about the osteoporotic process. Clinical studies employing new "bone specific" agents have generated tremendous enthusiasm for newer therapeutic options, as well as providing a greater understanding of the spectrum of metabolic bone diseases. This expanded knowledge base has set the stage for even greater technological thrusts aimed at earlier diagnoses and cost-effective treatments.

This book aims to provide in-depth coverage of areas concerning the pathogenesis and treatment of osteoporosis. It contains 23 chapters in 5 main sections as follows:

Part I. Skeletal physiology and its relevance to osteoporosis.

- The cellular and biochemical aspects of bone remodeling.
- The role of calcium, phosphorus, and macronutrients in the maintenance of skeletal health.
- Vitamin D in health and prevention of metabolic bone disease.

Part II. The pathophysiology of osteoporosis.

- The pathophysiology of osteoporosis.
- The epidemiology of osteoporosis.
- Psychosocial aspects of osteoporosis.

Part III. The diagnosis of osteoporosis.

- What is an osteoporotic fracture?
- Bone densitometry techniques in modern medicine.
- Clinical interpretation and utility of bone densitometry.
- Quantitative ultrasound.
- Biochemical markers of bone turnover.

Part IV. The treatment of osteoporosis.

- An introduction to clinical decision making in osteoporosis.
- Calcium as a primary treatment and prevention modality for osteoporosis.
- Use of estrogen for prevention and treatment of osteoporosis.
- Drug therapy.
- Nonpharmacologic therapy for osteoporosis.

Part V. Case presentations.

- Prevention of osteoporosis.
- The diagnosis and treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis.
- The approach to osteoporosis in the elderly patient.
- Preventing and treating glucocorticoid osteoporosis.
- Therapy for osteoporosis in men.
- Bone mass in renal disease.
- Prevention of osteoporosis: making sense of the published evidence.

This volume will be of particular interest to primary care providers, endocrinologists, gynecologists, rheumatologists, and orthopedic surgeons, as well as to students.

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THE GABA RECEPTORS—2nd edition. Edited by S. J. Enna and N. G. Bowery. 'The Receptors' series edited by D. B. Bylund. Humana Press, Totowa, 1997, 332 pp. ISBN: 0-89603-458-5, US\$125.00.

This book is a review of the latest advances in the fundamental molecular, biochemical, behavioral, and pharmacological properties of GABA receptors. It includes approaches for the identification and development of new therapeutic agents for such neurological and psychiatric disorders as epilepsy, memory loss, affective illnesses, and psychosis, as well as examining the therapeutic potential that remains in the cloning and expression of the GABA transporter, and the development of additional agents capable of regulating GABA receptor function.

This second edition provides an abundance of new information across the spectrum of GABA research, aiding in the synthesis and development of new drugs that interact with the GABA neurotransmitter system. It has been discovered that the sensitivity of the GABA_A receptor is modulated by certain steroids, revealing yet another approach to the manipulation of this system. Such information has provided a more precise characterization of the mechanism of action of established drugs and has been used to design novel and more selective therapeutics.

The contents of this book are as follows:

- Structure and function of GABA reuptake systems.
- Diversity in structure, pharmacology, and regulation of GABA_A receptors.
- GABA_A receptor agonists, partial agonists, and antagonists.
- Pharmacology of mammalian GABA_A receptors.
- The interaction of intravenous anesthetic agents with native and recombinant GABA_A receptors: an electrophysiological study.
- Electrophysiology of GABA_B receptors.
- Pharmacology of mammalian GABA_B receptors.
- Cellular and biochemical responses to GABA_B receptor activation.
- Biochemical and molecular properties of GABA_B receptors.
- Chemistry of GABA_B modulators.
- Molecular biology, pharmacology, and physiology of GABA_C receptors.

This volume will serve as a guide to the direction of future research in the area, and the information provided will be of particular interest to neurobiologists, pharmacologists, medicinal chemists, and neurophysiologists.

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TUMOR MARKER PROTOCOLS. Edited by M. Hanausek and Z. Walaszek. 'Methods in Molecular Medicine' series edited by J. M. Walker. Humana Press, Totowa, 1998, 512 pp. ISBN: 0-89603-380-5, US\$99.50.

The development of cancer is a slow process and it can take several years before a tumor becomes clinically evident, at which time it is often already beyond the reach of therapeutic strategies. Progress in reducing cancer mortality is dependent to a great degree on its early detection and prevention, and in the last decade there have been many reports dealing with tumor markers and many simple, noninvasive diagnostic tests are becoming available to detect the early signs of neoplasia.

This book aims to cover the major contemporary methods that have steadily broadened our understanding of early cancer formation, as well as to provide powerful routes to the detection and discovery of new cancer markers, particularly molecular tumor markers. It is divided into five main parts and the majority of the chapters are written as regular protocols, each followed by notes on critical points and issues. The contents are as follows:

Part I. Multiple Markers: Principles and Guidelines.

- Integrating multiple clinical tests to increase predictive power.
- Statistical considerations in the analysis of tumor markers.
- Selection and development of biomarkers for bladder cancer.
- Clinical application of tissue and serum markers in breast cancer.

Part II. Immunodiagnosis of Cancer: Serum and Tissue Markers.

- Serum and tissue biomarkers in the prognosis and treatment of breast cancer.
- The oncofetal protein p65 in breast cancer detection.
- Determination of tumor ferritin concentration in breast cancer.
- Immunodiagnosis of childhood malignancies.
- Immunohistochemical evaluation of biomarkers in prostatic and colorectal neoplasia: principles and guidelines.
- Factors affecting immunohistochemical evaluation of biomarker expression in neoplasia.