—Antisense oligoneucleotides.
—Growth factors and growth factor inhibitors.
—Immunoconjugates.
—A case for *ras* targeted agents as antineoplastics.
—Gene therapy.

This book will be of interest to oncologists, clinicians, molecular biologists, physiologists, and advanced students.

PII: S0960-0760(98)00109-5

HORMONES AND GROWTH FACTORS IN DEVELOPMENT AND NEOPLASIA. Edited by Robert B. Dickson and David S. Salomon. Wiley-Liss Inc., New York, 1998, 461 pp. ISBN: 0-471-16899-8, £80.95.

The study of hormones is critical to our understanding of developmental aberrations leading to cancer, and the discovery of polypeptide growth factors has led to profound insights into the duality of control of development and cancer by hormones at the tissue and cellular levels. In this book; leading researchers in the field present a cohesive overview of several important growth factor systems and how they interact with endocrine hormones in the context of tissue-tissue interactions; control of cellular growth, differentiation, and death; and reciprocal control of receptors and ligands at the molecular level.

The first two sections introduce important growth factors and hormonal systems in invertebrate and amphibian model systems, highlights early evolutionary and developmental functions for the classes of molecules later shown to be important in human cancer, establish the roles of growth factors and hormones in mammalian development, and focus on early embryonic events and later events leading to sexual dimorphism. The third section discusses in detail the control of postnatal developmental processes in male and female reproductive tracts, focusing on the prostate and mammary glands, as well as the female reproductive tract, all of which are of special importance in hormonally driven cancers. Finally, the book takes a direct look at cancers and the molecular mechanisms of hormone-growth factor interactions. The 23 chapters in this timely volume are divided into four parts as follows:

Part I: *Growth factors and steroid hormones in the development of invertebrates and amphibians.*
—Pattern formation by sequential signaling during *C. elegans* vulval induction.
—EGF-receptor and TGF-β-like Dpp signaling during *Drosophila* development.
—Ecdysone response in *Drosophila*.
—Estrogen control of *Xenopus Laevis* egg yolk mRNA synthesis and degradation.

Part II: *Growth factors and hormones in mammalian development.*
—Growth factors in the mammalian pre- and postimplantation embryos.
—Transcriptional regulation in an *in vitro* model system for mammalian embryogenesis.
—Cellular interactions mediated by tyrosine kinase receptors during development: driving forces for growth, motility, and differentiation.
—Developmental and physiologic roles of ErbB receptors and their ligands in mammals.
—The estrogen receptor in mammalian development.
—Progesterone and development.

Part III. *Postnatal development processes in the adult: reproductive tracts and mammary glands.*
—Prolactin in development of the mammary gland and reproductive tract.
—Growth factors as mediators of stromal-epithelial interactions in steroid hormone target organs.
—Hormones, insulin-like growth factors, and their binding proteins in the female reproductive tract.
—Signal networks in the mammary gland: lessons from animal models.

Part IV: *Growth factor-hormonal interactions in tumorigenesis and malignant progression.*
—Sex steroids and cancer.
—The IGF-I receptor in normal and abnormal growth.
—Mutational activation of receptor tyrosine kinases.

—Estrogen, growth factors, and carcinogenesis of the reproductive tract.
—Oncogenes, growth factors, and hormones in prostate cancer.
—WNT and fibroblast growth factor gene expression during development of the mammary gland and role of WNTs in human cancer.
—*INT3*, a novel-NOTCH-related gene in mammary gland development and neoplasia.
—Tyrosine kinases and signal transduction in mouse mammary tumorigenesis.
—The *erb*B-2 gene in human cancer: translation from research to application.

With its novel approach, authoritative coverage, and broad scope, this book is informative and relevant for researchers across a wide spectrum of disciplines, including cancer research, endocrinology, developmental biology, and cell biology.

PII: S0960-0760(98)00110-1

THE CONTRACEPTIVE REVOLUTION. An Era of Scientific and Social Development. Egon Diczfalusy. Parthenon, Carnforth, U.K., and New York, U.S.A. 1997, 256 pp. ISBN: 1-85070-748-0, £48.00.

Egon Diczfalusy became world famous among reproductive endocrinologists in the early 1960 s when he received a grant from the Ford Foundation to study hormonal interactions during early pregnancy, and put together an international team of young, strongly motivated scientists, many of whom now hold important positions all over the world. He is an internationally renowned researcher and teacher, who has produced over 550 publications and edited around 30 books. In summarizing his many accomplishments, two features stand out: the definition and detailed study of the human feto-placental unit and his promotion and co-ordination of international research efforts aimed at achieving reproductive health for all. Modern methods of contraception have evolved with the concept of reproductive health and the United Nations project that by the year 2000 more than half-a-billion couples around the world will use modern methods of family planning, while a major part of the current health requirements of a population is related to reproductive ill health.

This volume contains 17 lectures made by Egon Diczfalusy over a period of 18 years to audiences all over the world, covering the author's lifetime achievements and scientific successes. The chapters included are as follows:

—Reproductive endocrinology and the merry post-war period (The Sir Henry Dale Lecture for 1978).
—Future methods of fertility regulation.
—Gregory Pincus and steroidal contraception: a new departure in the history of mankind.
—Sustained Release Preparations. Improved long-acting fertility regulating agents: what are the problems?
—Contraceptive science and technology for developing countries: a case history in a sensitive area.
—Gregory Pincus and steroidal contraception revisited.
—New developments in oral, injectable and implantable contraceptives, vaginal rings and intrauterine devices: a review.
—Has family planning a future?
—Contraception in an integrated and divided world.
—The past is prologue: implications of a symposium.
—The history of steroidal contraception: what is past and what is present?
—Contraceptive prevalence, reproductive health and our common future.
—Reproductive physiology, reproductive health and the last decade of the millennium.
—The C. Donald Christian Memorial Lecture: Contraceptive prevalence, reproductive health and our common future.
—Reproductive health: a rendez-vous with human dignity.
—The third age, the Third World and the third millennium.
—From mankind to humankind: reproductive health and gender equity.

This book will be of interest to those working in gynecology, reproduction, and endocrinology, as well as for clinicians and advanced students.