

# **Pancreatic Cancer**

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METHODS IN MOLECULAR MEDICINE™

# Pancreatic Cancer

*Methods and Protocols*

Edited by

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and Pathology*

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# Preface

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States. Annually approximately 30,000 Americans are diagnosed with the disease and most will die from it within five years. Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma is unique because of its late onset in age, high mortality, small tumor samples infiltrated with normal cells, and a lack of both early detection and effective therapies. Some of these characteristics have made studying this disease a challenge.

Pancreatic cancer develops as a result of the accumulation of genetic alterations in cancer-causing genes, such as the oncogenes and the tumor-suppressor genes. In the last decade, major progress has been made in identifying important oncogenes and tumor-suppressor genes for the disease. In *Pancreatic Cancer: Methods and Protocols*, we review the classical techniques that have contributed to the advances in pancreatic research and introduce new strategies that we hope will add to future breakthroughs in the field of cancer biology.

*Pancreatic Cancer: Methods and Protocols* provides a broad range of protocols for molecular, cellular, pathological, and statistical analyses of sporadic and familial pancreatic cancer. It covers topics from in vitro cell cultures to in vivo mouse models, DNA to protein manipulation, and mutation analyses to treatment development. We believe that our book will prove an invaluable source of proven protocols for those who are interested in either basic or translational research in pancreatic cancer.

***Gloria H. Su***

# Contents

Preface .....	v
Contributors .....	ix
1 Identification and Analysis of Precursors to Invasive Pancreatic Cancer <b>Ralph H. Hruban, Robb E. Wilentz, and Anirban Maitra .....</b>	<b>1</b>
2 Optimal Molecular Profiling of Tissue and Tissue Components: <i>Defining the Best Processing and Microdissection Methods for Biomedical Applications</i> <b>G. Steven Bova, Isam A. Eltoun, John A. Kiernan, Gene P. Siegal, Andra R. Frost, Carolyn J. M. Best, John W. Gillespie, and Michael R. Emmert-Buck .....</b>	<b>15</b>
3 Immunohistochemistry and <i>In Situ</i> Hybridization in Pancreatic Neoplasia <b>Robb E. Wilentz, Ayman Rahman, Pedram Argani, and Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue .....</b>	<b>67</b>
4 Practical Methods for Tissue Microarray Construction <b>Helen L. Fedor and Angelo M. De Marzo .....</b>	<b>89</b>
5 Xenografting and Harvesting Human Ductal Pancreatic Adenocarcinomas for DNA Analysis <b>Kimberly Walter, James Eshleman, and Michael Goggins .....</b>	<b>103</b>
6 Culture and Immortalization of Pancreatic Ductal Epithelial Cells <b>Terence Lawson, Michel Ouellette, Carol Kolar, and Michael Hollingsworth .....</b>	<b>113</b>
7 DNA Methylation Analysis in Human Cancer <b>Carmelle D. Curtis and Michael Goggins .....</b>	<b>123</b>
8 Digital Single-Nucleotide Polymorphism Analysis for Allelic Imbalance <b>Hsueh-Wei Chang and Ie-Ming Shih .....</b>	<b>137</b>
9 Representational Difference Analysis as a Tool in the Search for New Tumor Suppressor Genes <b>Antoinette Hollestelle and Mieke Schutte .....</b>	<b>143</b>

10	Serial Analyses of Gene Expression (SAGE) <b>Jia Le Dai</b> .....	161
11	Oligonucleotide-Directed Microarray Gene Profiling of Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma <b>David E. Misek, Rork Kuick, Samir M. Hanash, and Craig D. Logsdon</b> .....	175
12	Identification of Differentially Expressed Proteins in Pancreatic Cancer Using a Global Proteomic Approach <b>Christophe Rosty and Michael Goggins</b> .....	189
13	Detection of Telomerase Activity in Patients with Pancreatic Cancer <b>Kazuhiro Mizumoto and Masao Tanaka</b> .....	199
14	Serological Analysis of Expression cDNA Libraries (SEREX): <i>An Immunoscreening Technique for Identifying Immunogenic Tumor Antigens</i> <b>Yao-Tseng Chen, Ali O. Gure, and Matthew J. Scanlan</b> .....	207
15	Modeling Pancreatic Cancer in Animals to Address Specific Hypotheses <b>Paul J. Grippo and Eric P. Sandgren</b> .....	217
16	Strategies for the Use of Site-Specific Recombinases in Genome Engineering <b>Julie R. Jones, Kathy D. Shelton, and Mark A. Magnuson</b> .....	245
17	Primary Explant Cultures of Adult and Embryonic Pancreas <b>Farzad Esni, Yoshiharu Miyamoto, Steven D. Leach, and Bidyut Ghosh</b> .....	259
18	Zebrafish as a Model for Pancreatic Cancer Research <b>Nelson S. Yee and Michael Pack</b> .....	273
19	Development of a Cytokine-Modified Allogeneic Whole Cell Pancreatic Cancer Vaccine <b>Dan Laheru, Barbara Biedrzycki, Amy M. Thomas, and Elizabeth M. Jaffee</b> .....	299
20	Overview of Linkage Analysis: <i>Application to Pancreatic Cancer</i> <b>Alison P. Klein</b> .....	329
	Index .....	343

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