Ernst Schering Research Foundation Workshop 50
Animal Models of T Cell-Mediated Skin Diseases
Animal Models of T Cell-Mediated Skin Diseases

T. Zollner, H. Renz, K. Asadullah
Editors

With 33 Figures
Our understanding of inflammatory diseases in humans is tightly linked to animal models of these disorders. Significant knowledge regarding the pathophysiology of inflammation was first gained in animals and later documented for humans. In addition, animal models are of key importance for target identification and lead compound discovery and optimization. Indeed, most pharmaceutical companies base decisions on the clinical development of candidate compounds and on results obtained from animal research in disease models. Nevertheless, attrition rates in clinical development are still very high; up to 90% of new compounds fail in clinical phases I–III. Late-stage clinical failure is to a great extent due to lack of clinical efficacy, indicating that there is a strong need for highly predictive in vitro and in vivo models.

We thus wanted to organize a workshop that would provide a forum to present and discuss recent developments and breakthroughs in this exciting and important research field with a particular emphasis on animal models for acute and chronic inflammatory skin diseases. For this 50th ESRF Workshop on “Animal Models of T Cell-Mediated Skin Diseases” held in Berlin from 24 to 26 November 2003, we were pleased to bring together a group of international scientists from seven countries who are leading in their field. The first part of the proceedings of this workshop covers, in addition to methodological aspects, diseases sharing pathophysiological aspects of inflammatory skin disorders. The second part deals with the three major indications atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, and allergic contact dermatitis. We are grateful to the authors for their excellent contribu-
tions to the proceedings. The organizers hope that this publication will be a valuable source for scientists and clinicians alike, since this book provides an overview of the pathophysiology, value, but also limitations of many currently available models of T cell-mediated skin diseases.

Berlin, April 2004
Thomas Zollner, Harald Renz, Khusru Asadullah
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