Preface to the focused issue: up-to-date knowledge of basic and translational research on bladder cancer

Bladder cancer is one of the most common cancers of the urinary tract, and it is a highly fatal disease with frequent recurrence and progression. Therefore, there is an urgent need for gaining an understanding of the exact pathophysiology of bladder cancer, as well as for developing new and effective treatment modalities. While many challenging scientific questions are still unanswered, major advances in molecular biology and cancer genetics have greatly increased the knowledge of molecular mechanisms involved in cancer development and progression, leading to significant advances in the treatment of bladder cancer over the last decade.

In this context, this focused issue on bladder cancer includes very attractive topics from a therapeutic point of view, such as target therapy, epigenetic regulators and autophagy, as well as topics from a cancer biology perspective, such as bladder cancer stem cells and tumor microenvironment. Moreover, to address as many research issues as possible and the current knowledge in the field of bladder cancer research, a variety of themes from a translational research perspective, such as bladder cancer genomics, patient-derived bladder cancer xenograft models and novel biomarker studies, are also introduced.

The current focused issue will be a stepping stone for many bladder cancer researchers to properly understand the latest trends in bladder cancer research and to lead to practical application in clinical practice. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to renowned bladder cancer researchers from all over the world who participated in the development of this focused issue.

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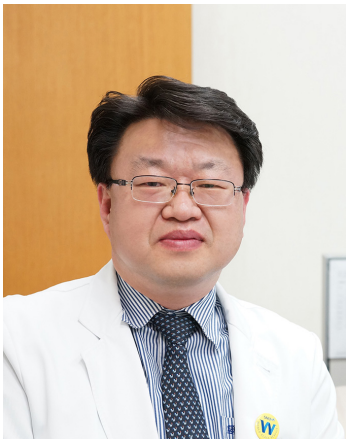

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