

Small cell lung cancer (SCLC), one of the two major types of lung cancer, is a fast-growing type of the disease which spreads faster than non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) (1). SCLC accounts for up to 15% of all lung cancers with smoking being its major risk factor (1). With the aim to reduce the number of SCLC cases, a large amount of studies have been conducted to investigate the etiology, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of SCLC in the past few decades. In this new book, *Small cell lung cancer*, we focus on the molecular biology and treatment of SCLC.

The book is a collection of articles written by internationally renowned experts in the field of lung cancer. It consists of two chapters, one discussing the molecular biology of SCLC and the other detailing its treatment. Chapter one begins with an overview of the cellular and molecular biology of SCLC. As genetic alterations frequently occur in SCLC, articles on genetic alteration and genetic analysis are also included in this chapter. The last article in this chapter discusses circulating tumor cells as a liquid biopsy in SCLC.

Chapter two provides a comprehensive review of the treatment of SCLC. The treatment of SCLC patients is complicated, as multiple comorbidities secondary to smoking usually occur in these patients. Although chemotherapy is an effective way of treating SCLC and can relieve symptoms and prolong the life of the patients, the current treatments are still unable to cure the disease (2). Therefore, novel therapies need to be developed within the next decade.

We hope that this book will be a valuable resource for medical staff in this field and can promote further international collaboration aimed at improving the management of patients with SCLC.

References

1. NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines to Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®): Small Cell Lung Cancer. Version 1.2019. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc.
2. Koinis F, Kotsakis A, Georgoulas V. Small cell lung cancer (SCLC): no treatment advances in recent years. *Transl Lung Cancer Res* 2016;5:39-50.



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