

Foreword

Regenerative medicine is a multidisciplinary field aimed at enhancing the body's own reparative capacity in order to provide safe and effective therapies for a host of incurable diseases. This innovative way of treating diseases uses either exogenous sources of cells, mostly stem cells, or stimulates the further production and release of endogenous stem cells, commonly known as “reparative” cells.

The use of stem cells to help with lung regeneration and repair is a novel therapy which could help phase out the need for conventional surgical or pharmacological approaches currently employed to treat diseases of the lung or other organs. The present book explores all avenues of this new form of medical care, moving swiftly, but in depth, from the basic science of lung development, to the analyses of different stem cells types available for regeneration and on to the application of this knowledge base in initial clinical trials.

I would like to congratulate Professor Dame Julia Polak and the impressive team of contributors for giving all of us an up-to-date insight into what is currently known on stem cell therapies for lung disorders. This work is enlightening and to the point. My warmest compliments to the team for highlighting the great promise for the future of regenerative medicine.

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