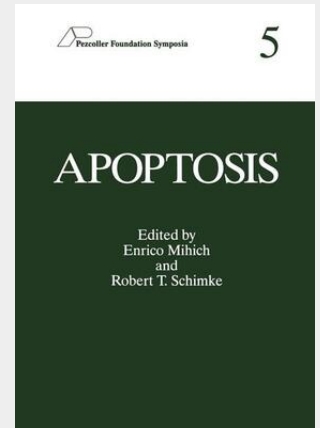


## Apoptosis

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The fifth Annual Pezcoller Symposium entitled, Apoptosis, was held in Trento, Italy, June 9-11, 1993 and was focused on the specific phenomena leading to Programmed Cell Death (PCD) or Apoptosis, and the mechanisms involved. With presentations at the cutting edge of progress and stimulating discussions, this Symposium addressed the genetics and molecular mechanisms determining PCD and the role of this suicidal process in cancer and the immune system. The functions of p53, c-myc and bcl-2 in affecting apoptosis in different cell types and the role of ions and intracellular pH changes and that of intranuclear endonucleases are given particular emphasis as are the effects of anticancer agents, hormone imbalances and growth factors. The role of p53, a tumor suppressor gene, in inducing PCD is discussed in detail as pertinent to hematological and non-hematological tumors. The requirement of p53 for the induction of apoptosis by ionizing radiation or adenovirus oncoproteins is outlined. Decision points during the cell cycle affecting the cascade of events leading to PCD are discussed as is their role as "switches" under the control of c-myc and bcl-2 proteins or the influence of cycle specific drugs. The concurrent requirement of multiple signals in determining apoptosis is emphasized. The examples of the role of PCD in the regulation of hematopoiesis, and in the generation of antigen-specific immune repertoire are illustrated.



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