



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

The International Journal of Biochemistry & Cell Biology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/biocel



Editorial

Rare cancers



Something rare . . . will rush to knowledge.

William Shakespeare, *Winter's Tale* (III, 1, 20–22)

Rare cancers, as their name indicates, occur rarely, therefore hardly ever a clinical oncologist has a chance to face such a diagnosis. Even a pathologist specialized in cancer throughout all years of practice will not see many of these rare forms of tumors. Therefore, despite their experience and expertise, both an oncologist and a pathologist working in the field of rare cancers are at notably worse position than their colleagues dealing with common cancers.

Two types of publications addressing the issue of rare cancers may be distinguished: the first are chapters in university textbooks on the general pathology of neoplasms; the second are comprehensive compendia on rare cancers. Neither discuss diagnostic strategies in this particular field. Only a small number of pathologists who have devoted themselves to this area of research know how difficult this task is. The drawback is that not only the specialists are precious but also scarce.

In this collection of articles one will find both experimental studies and review articles on several rare cancers. Majority of them report on the application of modern molecular biology techniques

in differential diagnostics showing explicitly that molecular geneticists become partners working arm in arm with pathologists.

We are grateful to all contributors who have submitted excellent articles, and also to reviewers for their competent comments. Cooperation with the Publishers, especially with Ms. Kirsten Mottram, was always a great pleasure. We are impressed by the high degree of editorial and technical skill displayed by Elsevier.

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Available online 4 June 2014