

# Preface

The past decade has witnessed unprecedented advances in the understanding of monoclonal gammopathies, driven both by the availability of new therapeutic agents as well as a better understanding of the biology of plasma cell disorders. While the focus in the field has been on multiple myeloma, its diagnosis, risk stratification, and therapies, we have also made significant progress in understanding the less common monoclonal gammopathies. Many of the lessons that we have learned in the context of multiple myeloma have widespread application for the less common plasma cell disorders. With testing for monoclonal proteins becoming more commonplace and the introduction of serum free light chain assay, allowing for detection of monoclonal proteins previously missed on traditional serum protein electrophoresis, monoclonal gammopathy and associated disorders are increasingly being diagnosed.

While there are numerous publications in the area of multiple myeloma, very few review articles and book chapters are dedicated to the less common plasma cell disorders. This is a rapidly expanding area with more sensitive diagnostic technology, such as mass spectrometry, allowing us to identify small amounts of protein hitherto not appreciated by the conventional diagnostic assays. Other advances in technology, such as next-generation sequencing as well as highly sensitive multiparameter flow cytometry, have

contributed to our ability to detect and diagnose these rare plasma cell disorders. Not only has the ability to detect the small plasma cell clones been enhanced through these technologies, we have also become more aware of the various disease associations and the potential contribution of the monoclonal protein to disease manifestations. This is particularly relevant in the context of many uncommon renal disorders that were not previously associated with monoclonal proteins.

We have brought together many of the renowned experts in this field with the intent of developing a state-of-the-art reference that will allow clinicians and scientists to get a better understanding of these uncommon disorders. We have dedicated individual chapters to each of these disorders, with each chapters outlining what is currently known about the pathophysiology of these disorders as well as the common treatment approaches. We hope that the information in this book will not only help guide management of the patient in the clinic, but also form the basis for future studies related to these disorders. We sincerely hope that you will find this book to be a great addition to the literature in the field and a constant guide in your daily practice.

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