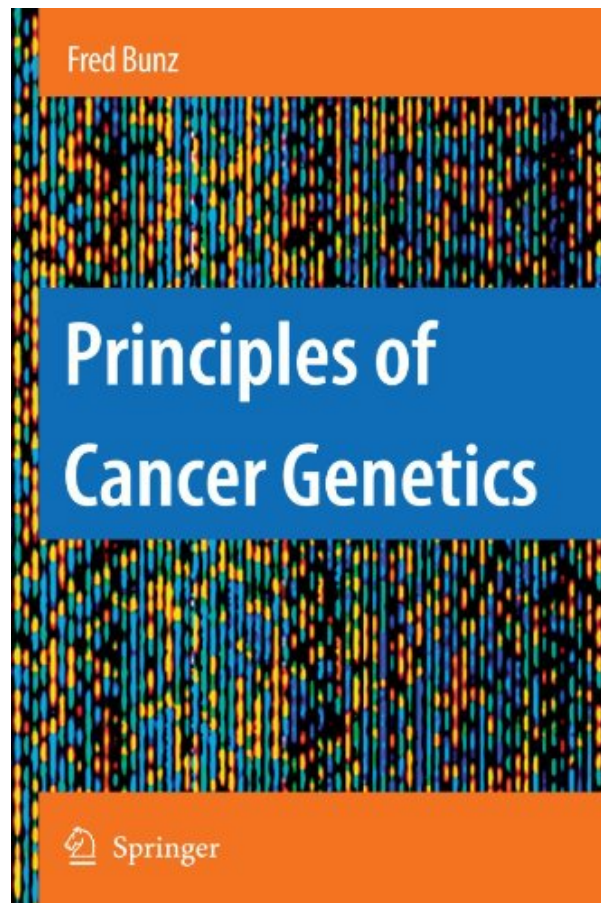


# PRINCIPLES OF CANCER GENETICS BY FRED BUNZ



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# Principles of Cancer Genetics

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“The book is exceptional in its clarity and scope of presentation. ... Bunz focuses on a laser with short clear descriptions and presentations. ... All in all a superb little gem worth being on many a desk. I find it is worth going back to from time to time.” (Philosophy, Religion and Science Book Reviews, [bookinspections.wordpress.com](http://bookinspections.wordpress.com), December, 2013)

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This concise guidebook consolidates the main concepts of the cancer gene theory, and provides a framework for understanding the genetic basis of cancer. It illuminates the integrated contributions of heredity, the environment, and acquired genetic instability.

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## Most helpful customer reviews

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

A Wonderful Short Overview of Cancer Genetics

By Dr. Terrence McGarty

I had this sitting on my shelf as a backup reference for a few months and finally opened the book. At first I was not impressed but when I began reading it the book is exceptional in its clarity and scope of presentation. If one has read Weinberg, the bible of cancer genetics introduction, then this appears to be quite a step down, but in reality it distills and focuses the topics exceptionally well. Whereas Weinberg goes into massive detail, and rightly so, Bunz focuses on a laser with short clear descriptions and presentations.

Chapter 1 details the now well understood ways in which cell DNA destruction happens. There is a good short presentation of the Vogelstein model and a setting up of the genetic flows which control the steps in the conversion of cells to the metastatic state. The graphics are crisp and well done and satisfy the point to be made.

Chapter 2 is on oncogenes and the chapter provides a good historical perspective and also establishes the lead in for the following chapters. The viral oncogene discussion is typical for its clarity and brevity. It reads very well to the experienced eye and I suspect it will do as well for the uninitiated. I also found the

PIK3CA discussion on kinases exceptionally well done and useful for staging the follow on topics.

Chapter 3 on tumor suppressor genes is also well done. The discussion on APC and p53 is a good overview and provides adequate basis for building on the topic. The PTEN discussion also establishes the now well understood need to focus on PTEN since it plays such a critical role in many cancers such as that of the prostate.

Chapter 4 is on gene instability and puts all of the elements together.

Chapter 5 is in my opinion the best and it is on the pathways. This is a significant area because by understanding what they are and how to control them perhaps a wealth of treatment options may become available. The author starts with the full pathway map and then goes pathway by pathway. I found the discussion here more focused and clearer than Weinberg. Clearly Weinberg is the gold standard but by reading through Bunz Chapter 5 one can get a short focused and integrated discussion.

Chapter 6 then takes these principles and looks at them from a cancer by cancer set of lenses. This is useful and it allows the reader to focus in on specifics and what is known and not known.

Chapter 7 provides a brief clinical overview.

All in all a superb little gem worth being on many a desk. I find it is worth going back to from time to time.

Yet there is a gap in the literature that this could have addressed, that is the development of true pathway modeling. The ability to link proteins and enzymes to genes, the detailed epigenetic controls, and the catalyst of secondary pathways and inter-cellular communications. Perhaps it is still too early since much of this is yet to be developed in a fully systematic fashion in the literature.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Best introduction to cancer genetics.

By Tacitus

I agree with the other reviews on this book. The writing is very good and if you read this book from cover to cover you will have a good grasp of cancer genetics. I think chapter 5 on Cancer Gene Pathways is particularly good. I learned a lot from this chapter ! This book holds an important place on my bookshelf.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Very nice new book on cancer genetics

By Todd Waldman

This new book on Cancer Genetics, written in its entirety by Dr. Fred Bunz of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, provides a very nice introduction to modern Cancer Genetics. It is appropriate for advanced undergraduates and graduate students, as well as medical students. The writing is lucid and concise, and the many figures and diagrams provide useful visual emphasis for particularly important points. Overall, this is an outstanding new volume that would provide a useful backdrop for courses in Cancer Genetics and Biology, as well as being a useful laboratory reference.

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