

Preface

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This volume contains the proceedings of the New York Academy of Sciences conference entitled Molecular and Developmental Biology of Cartilage held in Bethesda, Maryland, on September 27–30, 1995. Our intention in organizing the conference was to aid the development of new ideas and approaches that might lead to fundamental discoveries in skeletal morphogenesis. By bringing together investigators with different backgrounds in human genetics, cellular and molecular biology, mouse embryology, and structural biology, we wished to stimulate studies of the role of cartilage in skeletal development, increase the interest among basic scientists for human osteochondrodysplasias, and make clinicians fully aware of the most recent progress in our molecular understanding of skeletogenesis. The outstanding quality of the papers presented made the meeting most exciting and rewarding. We hope this volume will continue to provide excitement and stimulation for readers with a variety of backgrounds and at different levels, students, postdoctoral fellows, and established basic and clinical investigators.