

Contents

Prologue	xvii
Chapter Summaries	xxi
1 Historical Roots	1
1.1 The Stem Cell Notion: Is There a Stem Cell for Each and Every Hemopoietic Cell Type?	1
1.2 The Emergence of Bone Marrow Transplantation	3
1.3 The Origin of Contemporary Notions on Stem Cells	6
1.3.1 The HSC	6
1.3.2 The Immediate Descendants of HSCs: In Vitro Demonstration of Committed Progenitor Cells	10
1.3.3 Colony-Stimulating Factors and the Emergence of the Cytokine Notion	12
1.3.4 Further Insights into the Structure of the Hemopoietic Hierarchy and the Nature of Cells Within the Hemopoietic Cascade	13
1.3.5 The Stem Cell is Not Solitary: The Hemopoietic Stem Cell Niche	17
1.3.5.1 The Hemopoietic Inductive Microenvironments	17
1.3.5.2 Cytokines are Pleiotropic and Redundant	19
1.3.5.3 The Control of Hemopoiesis may not be Achieved by Simple Feedback Regulation	20
1.3.5.4 The Hemopoietic Stem Cell Niche Within the Bone Marrow Microenvironment	22
1.3.5.5 Antagonism with Differentiation Leads to Stem Cell Renewal	25
1.3.5.6 The Restrictive Nature of Hemopoietic Microenvironments	27
1.4 Conclusions, Questions, and Enigmas	28
References	31

2	Multipotency and Tissue-Specific Stem Cells	39
2.1	Tissue-Specific Stem Cells from Organs Capable of Extensive Regeneration	39
2.1.1	HSCs Versus Other Tissue-Specific Stem Cells	39
2.1.2	Liver Progenitor Cells	40
2.2	Tissue-Specific Stem Cells from Organs Undergoing Extensive Repopulation and Repair	42
2.2.1	Skin Stem Cells	42
2.2.2	Gut Stem Cells	46
2.3	Tissue-Specific Stem Cells in Tissues and Organs Exhibiting Moderate Repopulation and Repair Capabilities	47
2.3.1	Skeletal Muscle Stem Cells	48
2.3.2	Cardiovascular Progenitor Cells	49
2.4	Tissue-Specific Stem Cells in Tissues and Organs Exhibiting Poor Regeneration and Repair Capabilities	49
2.5	Conclusions, Questions, and Enigmas	50
	References	53
3	Stem Cells with No Tissue Specificity	57
3.1	Mesenchymal Cells: A Body-Wide Distributed Population that Includes Multipotent Cells	57
3.1.1	MSC Isolation	63
3.1.2	Growth, Senescence, and Tumorigenicity	65
3.1.3	Tissue and Organ Distribution	66
3.1.4	The Antigenic Phenotype of MSCs	67
3.1.5	Hierarchy	71
3.1.6	MSC Transplantation and Homing	73
3.1.7	Migratory Properties of MSCs	76
3.1.8	Molecular Basis of MSC Growth and Differentiation Control	77
3.1.9	Hemopoietic Supportive Capacity of MSCs	79
3.1.10	Immunoregulatory Functions of MSCs	79
3.1.11	Other Members of Mesenchymal Tissues?	81
3.2	Adult Pluripotent Stem Cells	81
3.3	The Case of ESCs	84
3.4	Conclusions, Questions, and Enigmas	88
3.4.1	Verifying Multipotency of MSCs by Single Cell Experiments	88
3.4.2	Do MAPCs and Similar Adult Cells Differentiate into the Three Germ Layers?	89
3.4.3	Not All that Grows Fast is a Stem Cell: The Opposite may be the Case	89
3.4.4	Who are the In Vivo Counterparts, or Precursors, of MSCs, MAPCs and Cells Alike, and Which are the Molecules that Control These Cells In Vivo?	89

3.4.5	What are the MSC Molecules that Mediate T Cell Suppression, and Why do Different Studies Reach Different Conclusions?	90
3.4.6	Reservations Regarding In Vitro MSC Migration Assays	90
3.4.7	Segregation of Stem Cells into Types Based on Differentiation Potency and Organ Distribution . . .	91
3.4.8	Is the Relative Capacity of Organs to Repopulate and Regenerate, Dependent Upon the Incidence or Potency of the Tissue Non-Specific Stem Cell? . . .	92
3.4.9	Embryogenesis Versus Adulthood: Cellular Plasticity Versus Stem Cells	93
3.4.10	The Relatively Autonomous Nature of Mesenchyme . .	93
	References	94
4	Stem Cell Niches	109
4.1	Universality of the Stem Cell Niche Concept: From Plants to Mammals	109
4.1.1	Plants and Worms	109
4.1.2	Drosophila Gonads	109
4.1.3	Mammalian Male Gonads	111
4.1.4	Mammalian Hair Follicle Melanocytes	112
4.1.5	Mammalian Neuronal Cells	112
4.2	The Cellular and Molecular Structure of Stem Cell Niches	113
4.2.1	Drosophila Gonadal Niche	113
4.2.2	The HSC Bone Marrow Niche	115
	4.2.2.1 The Role of the Endothelium in the Processes of HSC Homing and Engraftment into the Bone Marrow	116
	4.2.2.2 The Contribution of Endosteum-Lining Cells to the Formation the HSC Niche	117
	4.2.2.3 The Contribution of Perivascular Sites to the Formation of HSC Niches	120
	4.2.2.4 Contribution of Subendothelial-Region Cells in the Bone Marrow Stroma	121
	4.2.2.5 Anchoring of HSCs to Their Niches	121
	4.2.2.6 Molecular Signaling Controlling HSC in Their Niches	122
	4.2.2.7 In Vitro Simulations of HSC Niches	123
	4.2.2.8 A Critical View of Current Knowledge Regarding the Structure and Function of the HSC Niche	124
4.2.3	The Epithelial Stem Cell Niche	125
4.2.4	Mammalian Neuronal Cell Niches	125
4.2.5	Intestinal Niche	125

4.3	Studies on Mammalian Stem Cell Self-Renewal: Relevance to the Niche	125
4.4	The Molecular Basis of Asymmetrical Divisions	128
4.5	Homeless Orphans: Stem Cells with Unknown Niches	129
4.5.1	Do Migratory Pathways of Adult Stem Cells Reveal Their Niches?	129
4.5.2	MSCs, MAPCs, and ESCs Do Not Have Well-Characterized Niches	133
4.6	Conclusions, Questions, and Enigmas	134
4.6.1	Cell Attraction to Their Niches: A Note on Chemokine Gradients	134
4.6.2	Do Different Types of Stem Cells Exist, Some Niche-Dependent and Others Niche-Independent? . . .	135
4.6.3	"We Murder to Dissect" (from William Wordsworth (1770-1850) "The Table Turned")	136
4.6.4	Tissue Microenvironments Versus Stem Cell Renewal Niches	138
4.6.5	The Chicken and the Egg: Does the Niche Dictate the Formation of the Stem Cell or Does the Stem Cell Instruct the Formation of the Niche? . . .	139
4.6.6	Are There Niches for Multi/Pluripotency?	139
	References	140
5	A Critical Analysis of Properties Commonly Ascribed to Stem Cells	151
5.1	Stem Cell Definitions Vary	151
5.2	Specific Markers	152
5.2.1	The Gene Expression Pattern of Stem Cells: Are There Stemness Genes?	152
5.2.1.1	Cell Surface Markers and Gene Expression Profiles	152
5.2.1.2	Signaling Pathways	154
5.3	In Vitro Versus In Vivo	156
5.4	The Issue of Rareness	156
5.5	The Undifferentiated State: Is Any Cell that Precedes the Other Within the Differentiation Cascade, a Stem Cell?	156
5.6	Quiescence	157
5.7	Self-Renewal	157
5.8	Indefinite Renewal	161
5.9	Extensive Proliferation	162
5.10	Niche Dependence	163
5.11	Symmetric Versus Asymmetric Divisions	163
5.12	Robust Regeneration and Reconstitution of Tissues	164
5.13	Migration and Homing	165
5.14	Differentiation Capacity	166

5.15	Multipotency and Pluripotency	167
5.16	Conclusions	168
	References	170
6	The Stem State: Stemness as a State in the Cell's Life Cycle	177
6.1	The Stem Cell Versus the Stem State	177
6.2	The Molecular Basis of Stemness: A Specific Gene Expression Pattern Versus Epigenetic Modulations	179
6.3	Dedifferentiation	181
6.3.1	Plant Cells	181
6.3.2	Germ Cells in Insects and Mammals	181
6.3.3	Regeneration of Whole Organs in Urodeles	183
6.3.4	Mammalian Muscle	184
6.3.5	Mammalian Nerve Cells	185
6.3.6	Mammalian Melanocytes	185
6.3.7	Mammalian Adipocytes	185
6.3.8	Mammalian Pancreatic Cells	186
6.3.9	Normal and Tumor Mammalian Hemopoietic Cells	187
6.3.10	Reversed Differentiation in Adult Tissue and During Development	187
6.4	Transdifferentiation	188
6.4.1	Bone Marrow Cells Participate in the Repair and Repopulation of Non-Hemopoietic Tissues	188
6.4.2	Do HSCs Differentiate into Non-Hemopoietic Cells?	189
6.4.3	Mesenchymal Progenitors from the Bone Marrow and Other Body Sites Differentiate into Non-Mesodermal Derivatives	190
6.4.4	Transdifferentiation of Various Adult Tissue Cells	191
6.4.5	Fusion-Induced Reprogramming and Transdifferentiation	192
6.5	Reprogramming by Enforcing Dedifferentiation and Transdifferentiation Artificially	193
6.5.1	Nuclear Transfer	193
6.5.2	Reprogramming and Lineage Transitions by Enforced Expression of Transcription Factors	196
6.5.3	From Mature Cells Back to ESC-Like Cells: Induced Pluripotent Cells	197
6.5.4	Generation of Induced Pluripotent Cells from Mature B Lymphocytes	198
6.5.5	Reprogramming by Cell Extracts	199
6.5.6	Spontaneous Reprogramming Under Culture Conditions: Reprogramming Does Not Necessarily Require Enforced Introduction of Exogenous Molecules into Cells	199
6.6	The Stem State	200

6.6.1	Πάντα ῥεῖ (Panta rhey-Everything is in a State of Flux); in Reference to the Thoughts of Heraclitus, 535–475 BCE)	200
6.6.2	Many Avenues to Pluripotency, But Only One Underlying Mechanism	201
6.7	Conclusions, Questions, and Enigmas	203
6.7.1	The Molecular Signature of the Stem State	203
6.7.2	Dedifferentiation, Transdifferentiation, and Plasticity: How Do They Relate?	204
6.7.3	Controversies Over the Issue of Mammalian Cell Plasticity	205
6.7.4	Where Have All the Stem Cells Gone?	205
6.7.5	The Stem State and the Niche	206
	References	206
7	The Stem State in Cancer	217
7.1	Tumorigenesis and Tumor Growth	217
7.2	The Tumor-Initiating Cell	220
7.3	Tumor Stem Cells	222
7.4	Inconsistencies and Contradictions Within the Tumor Stem Cell Theory	225
7.4.1	Defining Tumor Stem Cells Solely on Grounds of Tumor-Forming Capacity	225
7.4.2	Reductionist Definitions	226
7.4.3	Tying Up Self-Renewal and Indefinite Proliferation	227
7.4.4	Differentiating Cells Acquire “Stemness”	228
7.4.5	Tying Up Tumor Origin and Tumor Mass Maintenance	229
7.4.6	Cells Within Tumors Are, At Most, Oligopotent	230
7.5	TICs are Biologically Distinct from Stem Cells: The TIC Does Not Possess Any of the Major Traits of Normal Stem Cells	232
7.6	Tumors are Stem Cell-Deficient	232
7.7	Conclusions and Enigmas	238
	References	239
8	MSC Therapy in Animal Models and in Regenerative Medicine for Human Diseases	245
8.1	Progenitor Cell Therapy: General Considerations	245
8.2	BMT: Transplantation of Unmanipulated Cells, Shortly After Their Isolation	249
8.3	Transplantation of Ex Vivo Propagated MSCs as a Therapy Modality	250
8.3.1	General Considerations and Possible Hurdles	250
8.3.2	MSCs in Animal Models	250

8.3.2.1	MSCs in Tumors	250
8.3.2.2	Tissue Repair Following MSC Infusion	252
8.3.3	MSCs in Human Disease	255
8.4	Transplantation of Ex Vivo Propagated, Genetically Manipulated Cells	256
8.5	Ex Vivo and In Vivo Engineering of Complete Tissues and Organs	257
8.6	Future Prospects: The Awakening of Resident Stem Cells	259
	References	260
	Epilogue	267
	Index	271