

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	xiii
1 Introduction to Gene Regulation by Small RNAs	1
<i>Allison L. Abbott</i>	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Gene Regulation by MicroRNAs	2
1.2.1 Mechanisms for microRNA-mediated regulation of gene expression	3
1.2.2 Identification of microRNA-regulated target mRNAs	5
1.3 Gene Regulation by piRNAs	8
1.3.1 Mechanism for piRNA-mediated regulation of gene expression	8
1.4 Summary and Perspectives	9
Acknowledgments	10
References	10
2 The Emerging Non-Coding RNA World	17
<i>Ahmad M. Khalil, Maite Huarte and John L. Rinn</i>	
2.1 Introduction to Non-Coding RNAs	18
2.2 Classifications of Long ncRNAs Based on Genomic Organisation	22
2.2.1 Intronic non-coding RNAs	24

2.2.2	Antisense ncRNAs	26
2.2.2.1	Antisense ncRNAs in genomic imprinting	28
2.2.2.2	Other types of gene regulation by antisense ncRNAs	29
2.2.3	Bidirectional ncRNAs	29
2.2.4	Large intergenic non-coding RNA (lincRNA)	31
2.3	Emerging Functional Themes of Long ncRNAs	33
2.3.1	NcRNAs in chromatin organisation and guidance	33
2.3.2	Long ncRNAs in differentiation and development	37
2.3.3	Promoter associated non-coding RNAs	38
2.4	Non-Coding RNAs in Human Disease	39
2.4.1	Long non-coding RNAs in cancer	40
2.4.2	Long non-coding RNAs in neurological disorders	40
2.4.3	Long non-coding RNAs in other diseases	42
2.5	Conclusion	43
	References	44
3	MicroRNAs in <i>C. elegans</i> Development	51
	<i>Helge Großhans and Almuth E. Müllner</i>	
3.1	Introduction	51
3.2	MicroRNA Biogenesis	52
3.3	The Mechanism of Action of <i>C. elegans</i> miRNAs	55
3.4	MicroRNA Targets and Their Prediction	56
3.5	'Small Temporal RNAs' and the Heterochronic Pathway	59
3.6	The <i>lin-4</i> miRNA Family	61
3.6.1	Lin-4 promotes L2 fates by repressing <i>lin-14</i>	61
3.6.2	Lin-4 represses <i>lin-28</i> to promote L3 fates	64
3.6.3	Regulation of ageing by <i>lin-4</i>	65
3.6.4	Members of the <i>lin-4</i> family in <i>C. elegans</i> and beyond	66
3.7	The <i>let-7</i> miRNA Family	67

3.7.1	Let-7 regulates several targets in multiple tissues to promote adult cell fates	67
3.7.2	Let-7 is part of a large microRNA family	70
3.8	Regulation of Neuronal Differentiation by <i>mir-273</i> and <i>lgy-6</i>	72
3.9	<i>Mir-1</i> , a Highly Conserved, Muscle-Specific miRNA	74
3.10	<i>MiR-61</i> as a Regulator of Vulval Differentiation	75
3.11	Few miRNAs Appear to be Individually Important for <i>C. elegans</i> Development	76
3.12	Elucidating the Function of Uncharacterised miRNAs	79
3.13	MiRNA Regulatory Networks	83
3.14	Conclusions and Outlook	84
	Acknowledgments	84
	References	85
4	MicroRNAs in Mammalian Development	95
	<i>Andrea Ventura</i>	
4.1	Introduction	96
4.2	Processing of miRNAs	96
4.3	Deletion of Dicer and Drosha in ES Cells	97
4.4	Conditional Deletion of Drosha, DGCR8 and Dicer	98
4.5	Deletion of Argonaute in Mice	100
4.6	Biological Functions of Individual miRNAs	101
4.7	MicroRNAs in Hematopoiesis and the Immune System	102
4.8	MiR-181a	103
4.9	MiR-155	104
4.10	<i>MiR-17~92</i> and Paralogues	105
4.11	MiR-150	108
4.12	MiR-223	109
4.13	MiRNAs in Heart Development and Function	110
4.14	The miR-1~133 Family of miRNA Clusters	110
4.15	MyomiRs	112
4.16	MiR-203 and Skin Development	113
4.17	Conclusion	115
	Acknowledgments	115
	References	115

5	MicroRNAs in Hematopoietic Development	125
	<i>Silvia Monticelli</i>	
5.1	Introduction	125
5.2	MiRNA Biogenesis and Post-Transcriptional Regulation	126
5.3	MiRNA Target Recognition and 3' UTR Regulation	129
5.4	Interplay Between miRNAs and Transcription Factors in Hematopoiesis	131
5.5	MiRNA Biogenesis' Role in Hematopoietic Development and Inflammation	133
5.6	Control of Cell Survival and Cell Proliferation	135
5.7	Control of Cell Differentiation	136
5.8	MiRNAs and Adaptive Immune Responses	138
5.9	MiRNAs and Innate Immune Responses	139
5.10	Perspective	142
	Acknowledgments	142
	References	142
6	MicroRNAs Function as Tumor Suppressor Genes and Oncogenes	149
	<i>Aurora Esquela-Kerscher</i>	
6.1	Introduction: MicroRNAs are Closely Linked with Cancer	150
6.2	MiRNAs Control a Variety of Developmental Processes Related to Cancer Progression Pathways	151
6.3	MicroRNA Biogenesis and Cancer	153
6.4	MiRNA Dysregulation and Disease	157
6.4.1	MicroRNAs as tumor suppressors	158
6.4.1.1	MiR-15a and miR-16	158
6.4.1.2	The let-7 family	159
6.4.1.3	MiR-26a	160
6.4.1.4	The miR-29 family	161
6.4.2	Oncogenic microRNAs	163
6.4.2.1	MiR-155	163
6.4.2.2	The miR-17-92 cluster	164
6.4.2.3	MiR-21	166

6.5	A Role for MicroRNAs in Metastasis	167
6.5.1	MicroRNA activators of metastasis	167
6.5.1.1	MiR-10b	167
6.5.1.2	MiR-373 and miR-520c	168
6.5.2	MicroRNA suppressors of metastasis	170
6.5.2.1	MiR-335, miR-126 and miR-206	170
6.6	Conclusions and Future Outlook	171
	References	172
7	Simultaneous Detection of Primary, Precursor and Mature MicroRNAs by qPCR	185
	<i>Jinmai Jiang, Eun Joo Lee and Thomas D. Schmittgen</i>	
7.1	Introduction	185
7.2	Description of the Technology	187
7.3	Examples That Use the Technology	191
7.4	Conclusions and Prospects	191
	Acknowledgments	193
	References	193
8	Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms in MicroRNAs and MicroRNA Binding Sites with Roles in Cancer	197
	<i>Lena J. Chin and Frank J. Slack</i>	
8.1	MiRNAs as Oncogenes and Tumour Suppressors	197
8.2	MiRNA Profiling	198
8.3	Dual Roles for MiRNAs as Oncogenes and Tumour Suppressors	199
8.4	Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) Associated with MiRNA Genes	200
8.5	SNPs in MiRNA Binding Sites	202
8.6	MiRNA-Associated SNPs Associated with Cancer	204
8.7	Conclusions	205
	References	206
9	MicroRNAs as Potential Diagnostics and Therapeutics	213
	<i>Trupti Paranjape, Jae Choi and Joanne B. Weidhaas</i>	
9.1	MicroRNAs in Cancer Diagnostics	214

9.1.1	MicroRNA profiling in identifying early malignant changes	215
9.1.2	Differentiating tumour subtypes	216
9.1.3	MicroRNAs in detecting early cancers	218
9.1.4	MicroRNAs in diagnosing unknown tumour origin	219
9.1.5	MicroRNAs in diagnosing cancer predisposition	221
9.2	MicroRNAs in Cancer Therapeutics	223
9.2.1	Ectopic expression of miRNAs as cancer therapy	223
9.2.1.1	MiRNAs as tumour suppressors	223
9.2.1.2	Restoring miRNA expression <i>in vivo</i>	224
9.2.2	MiRNA antagonism as anti-cancer therapy	225
9.2.2.1	MicroRNAs as oncogenes	225
9.2.2.2	Antagomirs	227
9.2.3	MiRNAs as adjuvants to conventional therapy	227
9.2.3.1	MiRNAs as modulators of radiation therapy	227
9.2.3.2	MiRNAs as modulators of chemotherapy response	228
9.2.4	MicroRNAs in metastasis: potential for future miRNA therapy	229
	Conclusions	230
	Acknowledgments	231
	References	231
10	MicroRNA Target Prediction	237
	<i>Isidore Rigoutsos and Aristotelis Tsirigos</i>	
10.1	Introduction	237
10.2	Definitions and Background	238
10.3	Methods	240
10.3.1	'Seed'-driven methods	240
10.3.2	Non-seed driven methods	243
10.3.3	Conservation requirement and sequence-context	245

10.3.4	Incorporating non-sequence information	247
10.3.5	Non-computational methods for identifying microRNA targets	250
10.4	Estimating Performance	253
10.5	Availability of Tools and Predictions	255
10.6	Conclusion	258
	References	259
11	Non-Coding RNAs in Cancer — The Other Part of the Story	265
	<i>Muller Fabbri and George A. Calin</i>	
11.1	Introduction	266
11.2	UCGs: Location and Expression Profiles Prove a Cancer Link	267
11.3	UCGs as Oncogenes or Tumour Suppressor Genes	268
11.4	Regulation of UCG Expression	269
11.5	Sequence Variations in UCRs and Cancer Risk	271
11.6	PiRNAs and Cancer	272
11.7	Conclusion	273
	Acknowledgments	273
	References	274
	Index	279