Contents

1. Introduction 1
What is a Stem Cell? 1
Defining Features of a Stem Cell 1
How do Stem Cells Look Like under the Microscope? 2
The Ultimate in Preventative Therapies 2
The Stem Cell Progress **4**

2. Properties and Types of Stem Cells 5
Properties of Stem Cells 5
Types of Stem Cells 7
Neonatal Umbilical Cord Stem Cells 8
Umbilical Cord Mesenchymal Stem Cells 9
Technology of Stem Cell Therapy 9

3. Embryonic Stem Cells 15
Properties 15
Factors Involved in Self-renewal and Pluripotency of Embryonic Stem Cells 18
Extrinsic Factors Governing Maintenance of the Undifferentiated State of Embryonic Stem Cells 18
Intrinsic Factors Governing Maintenance of the Undifferentiated State of Embryonic Stem Cells 20
Sources of Embryonic Stem Cells 23
In Vitro Fertilization 23
Nuclear Transfer 24
Therapeutic Cloning 24
Embryonic Stem Cell Lines 24
Procedure 26
Tests to Identify Embryonic Stem Cells 26
Obstacles and Risks Associated with the Use of ESCs 30

4. Adult Stem Cells 32
Definition 32
History 32
Properties 32
Sources of Adult Stem Cells 33
Tests to Identify Adult Stem Cells 33
Adult Stem Cell Differentiation 34
Normal Differentiation Pathways of Adult Stem Cells 34
Adult Stem Cell Plasticity and Transdifferentiation 35
Stem Cell Plasticity 35
Pathways of Stem Cell Plasticity 35
Adult Stem Cell Lines 36
Hematopoietic Adult Stem Cells 37
Neural Stem Cells 37
Skeletal Muscle Stem Cells 40
Hepatic Stem Cells 43
Limitations of Adult Stem Cell Therapy 45

5. Potential Uses of Human Stem Cells 48
Current Treatments 48
Parkinson's Disease 49
Diabetes Mellitus 51
Nonmedicinal Therapies 51
Stem Cell Research and Regenerative Medicine 51
Introduction 51
Primordial Germ Cells 51
EGC and ESC Properties 51
Imprinting 52
Human EGC Derivation 53
Proliferation 54
Clinical Applications 54
Oocyte Renewal 55

6. Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering 56
Tissue Engineering 56
Definition 56
Cells Used for Tissue Engineering 56
Engineering Materials 57
Synthesis of Tissue Engineering Scaffolds 58
Assembly Methods 60
Biomaterial Substrates for Clonal Expansion of Genetically Engineered Stem Cells 60
Biomaterials for Differentiation of Stem Cells 61
Biomaterials as Cell Carriers for *in Vivo* Stem Cell Delivery 61
Emerging Trends in Stem Cell Tissue Engineering 62
Micro/Nanopatterned Biomaterials to Direct Stem Cell Differentiation 62
Scaffold-based Nanoparticle Delivery System 64
The Development of Biomaterials for Stem Cell Expansion and Differentiation 64
ESCs 64
Hematopoietic Stem Cells (HSCs) 65
Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSCs) 66
Neural Stem Cells (NSCs) 67
Endothelial Progenitor Cells 69
Embryonic Germ Cell—Derived
Primordial Germ Cells 69
Adipose Tissue Derived Stem Cells 70
Other Stem/Progenitor Cells with Potential for TE Applications 70
Challenges to Stem Cell TE 70
Nonhuman Primate Models 71
Tissue Engineering and Characterization 72
Cartilage Tissue Engineering 72
Bone Tissue Engineering 72
Periodontal Tissue Engineering 73
Characterization 74

7. Stem Cells in Gene Therapy 75
Definition 75
Principles and Promise of Gene Therapy 75

Types of Gene Therapy 75
Direct Delivery 75
Cell Based Delivery 76
Vectors in Gene Therapy 77
Nonviral Methods 78
Limitations of Gene Therapy 79
Stem Cells in Gene Therapy 80

8. Cancer Stem Cells 81
Definition 81
Targeting Leukemia Stem Cells 84
Origin of Cancer Stem Cells 84
Cancer Stem Cell Pathway 85
Implications for Cancer Treatment 87

9. Stem Cells in Dental Tissue 90
Stem Cells in Teeth 90
Tooth Eligibility Criteria—Most Proliferative Stage 90
Deciduous Teeth 90
Wisdom Teeth 92
Permanent Teeth 92
Stem Cell Recovery 92
Advantages of Stem Cell Recovery and Cryopreservation from Teeth 94
Dental Stem Cell Banking 94
The Process 94
About Tooth Stem Cells 95
Different Types of Tooth Stem Cells 95
Dental Pulp Stem Cells 95
Periodontal Ligament Stem Cells 96
Gum Stem Cells 97
Clinical Application of Stem Cells in Orofacial Complex 101
Challenges in Craniofacial Tissue Engineering 102
Tissue Engineering of Teeth Using Adult Stem Cells 102
Stem Cells for Tooth Engineering 104

10. Conclusion 111

Index 113