



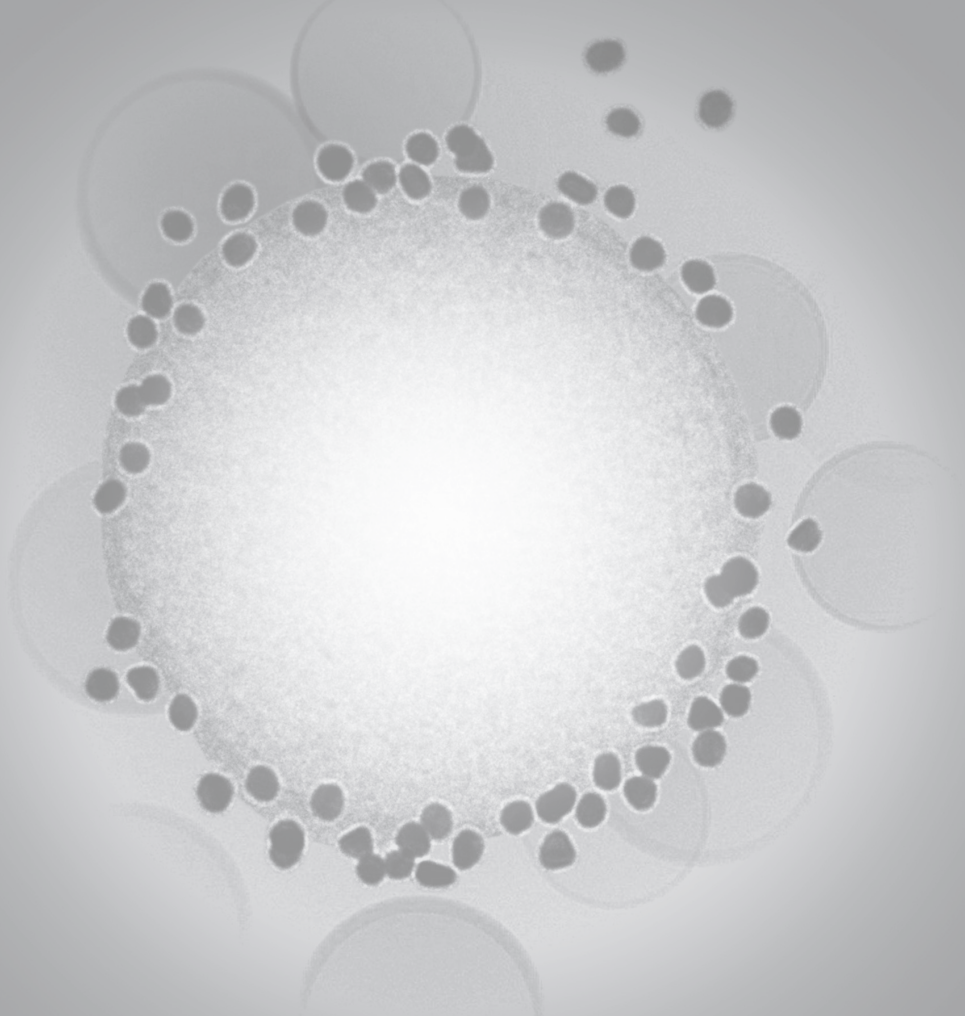
# EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES IN HEALTH AND DISEASE

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edited by Paul Harrison  
Christopher Gardiner  
Ian L. Sargent







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The cover image is a cryo-electron micrograph of a placental vesicle labeled with annexin-AV gold. Courtesy of Professor Alain Brisson, University of Bordeaux, France.

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# Preface

This book stems from the first international meeting on “Microvesicles and Nanovesicles in Health and Disease” held at Magdalen College, Oxford, on the September 23–24, 2010. Interest in the role of cellular microvesicles and nanovesicles (exosomes) is expanding rapidly. It is now apparent that far from being merely cellular debris, these vesicles play a key role in cell-to-cell communication and signaling. Moreover, they are significantly elevated in a number of diseases. This raises the question of their direct role in pathogenesis as well as their possible use as biomarkers. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together, for the first time, a range of experts from around the world to discuss the latest advances in this field. Key to the study of these vesicles is the availability of methodologies for their measurement in biological fluids. We therefore also invited a number of companies to present a range of exciting new technologies for this purpose. The presentations at this meeting form the basis of this book.

Since the Oxford meeting, the field has moved forward at a tremendous pace. A second meeting was organized in Paris by Professor Clotilde Thery in early 2011, which led to the founding of the International Society for Extracellular Vesicles (ISEV) ([www.isev.org](http://www.isev.org)). The society’s first scientific meeting was organized by Professor Jan Lotvall in Gothenburg, Sweden, in April 2012 and attracted over 400 delegates. The second meeting was organised in Boston, USA, in April 2013 by Professor Fred Hochberg with over 700 delegates, and the third meeting is being organised in April 2014 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, by Professor Marca Wauben, with over 800 delegates expected. The society has also set up its own open access journal, *The Journal of Extracellular Vesicles*. Similar activity in the United States has seen two international meetings held in Orlando by Professor Doug Taylor and the formation of the American Society for Exosomes and Microvesicles ([www.asemv.org](http://www.asemv.org)). These meetings have provided a forum where scientists from many different disciplines with a common interest in extracellular vesicles can meet, and we

look forward to many exciting new developments in this field in the future.

**Paul Harrison**  
**Christopher Gardiner**  
**Ian L. Sargent**  
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