

breaches in the basement membrane at the point of microinvasion. These defects may be the consequence of altered regulation of tissue boundaries and the inappropriate proteolytic breakdown of basement membrane barriers, which permit the migration of carcinoma cells out of the epithelial compartment, as discussed by Goodman in chapter 17. Tumor neoangiogenesis is also directly linked to endothelial modification of basement membranes regulated by angiogenic growth factors, a topic explored by Vlodavsky *et al.* in chapter 16. Damage to basement membranes prevents functional reconstitution and proper healing of cardiac muscle following infarction and of nerves following mechanical injury. For all these disease states, strategies for reconstitution of defective basement membranes or protection from proteolytic damage could serve as the basis for prevention and therapy.

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