

Preface

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Ovarian cancer remains to be the most lethal gynecologic malignancy with nearly 14,000 deaths attributed to this disease annually in the USA. The incidence of the disease has not been significantly decreased despite intensive efforts at screening and prevention. Unfortunately, the majority of women are still diagnosed with advanced-stage disease and fated to a death due to this disease. Even though most with advanced disease ultimately die of disease, significant strides have been made in therapy yielding substantially longer survivals. With aggressive surgical efforts and chemotherapy, median survivals of 5–7 years are reported in well-constructed prospective trials. Strides in lengthening survival have been in lockstep with the growing understanding of the molecular biology of this disease. This issue of Cancer and

Metastasis Reviews (CMR) has been compiled to present the state-of-the-art treatment of ovarian cancer as well as the cutting edge concepts defining the direction of future therapies. The first reviews lay the groundwork for the importance of cytoreductive surgery as well as the potential benefits of maintenance chemotherapy. The following reviews explore the cutting edge of treatment focusing on therapy targeted to angiogenesis, folate receptors, and immunologic mechanisms. Finally, innovations in biomarkers, nanotechnology, and proteomics close this provocative issue of CMR. This edition is produced through the efforts and expertise of many of the leading minds in ovarian cancer treatment and research. The reader is invited to see where the field stands and to where the field is moving through these expert eyes.

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