From the Desk of Guest Editor

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Preface

The field of Thoracic Oncology has evolved over the past many years. The advances in understanding of biology of thoracic malignancies coupled with, new staging methods, development of newer technologies for diagnosis (high resolution CT scans and PET scans) and treatment (voltage gated radiotherapy machines) has revolutionized this field. Surgical tools such as Robotic and minimally invasive surgical techniques have given new dimensions to surgical outcomes of thoracic oncological solid tumor malignancies.

In India the first esophagectomy was performed by Dr. D.J Jussawalla in 1944 at the Tata Memorial Hospital. Since then few anecdotal centres did surgery for esophageal and lung cancer, but with high mortality and morbidity. The formal thoracic oncology unit was formed at the Tata Memorial Hospital in mid-80's, where formal training of surgical oncologist in the subject and better management of thoracic oncological cases were done. The radical surgical approaches were aided by better anesthesia and improved intensive care for good outcome. Recently there are about six exclusive trained thoracic oncological units in different parts of India with dedicated team work giving better results.

The special issue of Journal on Thoracic Malignancies highlights the latest trends in surgical management of thoracic cancers especially lung and esophageal cancers. The issue throws light on the role of recent changes in management of these cancer due to emerging molecular science and subtle changes in management.

I believe that progress in molecular biology and development of target treatment with advanced surgical tools will lead to improved survival and better quality of life of thoracic malignancy cases.

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