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Editor

Liver Cancer

With 58 Illustrations



Springer

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This book is dedicated to Beverlee, Niel, and Emily, who remind me daily of the wonders in life; and to the patients we serve.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

JAMES BALDWIN

“The Greeks bequeathed us one of the most beautiful words in our language, the word enthusiam—en theos—the god within. The grandeur of human actions is measured by the inspiration from which they spring. Happy is the person who bears a god within, and who obeys it. The ideas of art, of science, are lighted by reflection from the infinite.”

PAUL TILLICH

Series Preface

The field of solid tumor oncology is changing at an astonishing rate. To learn about new developments, generate fresh research perspectives, and then integrate these advancements into clinical practice is a daunting challenge confronting all who work in the oncology arena. The onset and rapid deployment of internet capacities worldwide has created a milieu of global and instantaneous information access. The task of staying current is becoming even more challenging, and in some ways, more difficult to accomplish.

Against this information pressure backdrop, how can yet more didactic material for the already overburdened oncology physician be justified? Based on the premise that we all must remain in a learning mode if we are to remain relevant, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Annual of Solid Tumor Oncology is designed to focus on a single disease site in each volume. It is our belief that there is an information “gray zone” that lies between the peer reviewed (and increasingly electronically available) individual research report and the large comprehensive multiauthored textbook. Between these two loci there exists an information gap that will be best served by a succinct disease site-focused volume that provides an indepth analysis of current multimodality care for a specific solid tumor system, as well as the areas of basic, translational, and clinical research that will emerge for future clinical application. Each volume in this series is authored by an academic surgical oncologist of national repute in practice at the Department of Surgical Oncology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Under the leadership of these individuals, outstanding experts throughout the world have been tapped to contribute to this effort.

The target audience is physicians who are focusing on solid tumor oncology. However, it is our hope that medical students and physicians-in-training who aspire to a career in solid tumor oncology will also find these volumes to be of value. In this new era, we are now beginning to understand the molecular determinants driving solid tumor carcinogenesis, proliferation, and dissemination. These molecularly-based insights are moving rapidly into the clinical armamentarium. This poses a tremendous challenge to those of us who are not yet fully conversant, yet these developments also give confi-

dence that we are about to enter what will certainly be the most exciting era yet in solid tumor oncology. The tumors afflicting our patients compel us to be our best, as does our own dedication to fighting this disease cluster that will surpass cardiovascular illness as a cause of mortality worldwide early in the next millennium. On behalf of my faculty colleague authors at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and our many contributing experts, I would like to thank you for your willingness to participate with us in this exciting new project.

RAPHAEL E. POLLOCK
Houston, Texas

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