

The 20th century saw an unprecedent growth in human medical knowledge. In the 21st century we are witnessing a veritable explosion in the dissemination of such knowledge. Managing this deluge of information and being able to apply it thoughtfully will be the challenge of the next generation.

Urologic oncology has emerged as a significant specialty in medicine as urologic cancers encompass upto 25% of all cancers in the US and two (prostate, bladder) of the top ten cancers worldwide are urologic. Almost all of the urologic cancers are hard to diagnose by clinical exam alone and are dependent on imaging and cellular diagnostics for early identification. Hence urologic oncology is inherently a multi-disciplinary specialty. Advances in laboratory medicine, genomics, radiology, systemic therapy and radiation oncology have significantly impacted our field. Surgical urologic oncology has also observed a dramatic swing from being maximally invasive to minimally invasive to non-invasive. In the case of some cancers such as prostate and small renal masses, we are even choosing not to make the effort to diagnose every case. This evolution in our thinking has occurred with unprecedented rapidity. We are rapidly approaching a point where cancer may be converted to a chronic illness rather than an imminent lethal threat. In fact it has already begun to occur in some urologic cancers.

Synthesizing the massive amount of accumulating data and distilling it into a form that is easily digestible to be applied to patient care is a challenging task. Super computing with machines such as IBM Watson and artificial intelligence are certainly of great aid. However, machine learning is still incapable of interpreting all the nuances of disease manifestation and combining it with natural human intelligence. To that end, books like *Urinary System Tumor* offer a comprehensive compendium of knowledge and collective wisdom gleaned from some of the best experts in the field. They help us appreciate the breadth and scope of information available to the practicing clinician and can then be easily applied into practice. My co-editors and I are thankful to the efforts of these renowned experts who have contributed selflessly to this effort. We are confident that you will benefit enormously from this comprehensive and practical text.

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