

Urologic cancers comprise a significant proportion of newly diagnosed malignancies in the world, with prostate, bladder and kidney cancers being among the top ten diagnosed in the world. Over the past decade, we have seen a dramatic proliferation of knowledge in understanding mechanisms of cancers, fine tuning of surgical management of disease and development of myriad new systemic therapies. We have come to understand some cancers don't need to be aggressively treated, but rather carefully monitored leading to significant preservation of quality of life. These advancements all come from rigorous basic science and clinical research that collectively propels our field forward promising patients better treatments with fewer side effects. However, we still have a long way to go to make cancer a disease of the past. Death rates for many of urologic malignancies have decreased minimally or remain unchanged and further research and treatment algorithms are needed to battle insidious cancers.

We now have a considerable understanding of the biology of urologic cancers including the genetic, epigenetic, regulation and signaling pathways that are involved in cancer progression. Prostate cancer is the model for the tremendous collaborative research that has led us to our current state of knowledge. This book elegantly summarizes the recent progress made in the understanding of prostate cancer, delving into the mechanisms dictating the androgen receptor biology and genomic regulation, including a chapter devoted to the significance of micro RNA in detecting prostate cancer progression.

We are fortunate to be in a field where we have so much to gain from research in other arenas that help us with diagnosis and management of patients with urologic malignancies. The recent explosion of immune oncology as a means for treating systemic malignancies will help us hone in on its utility for non-muscle invasive bladder cancers and other localized diseases. Advances in diagnostic imaging will help us better detect and manage prostate cancer, particularly patients who are on active surveillance. The book has several chapter devoted to these topics. Surgery remains a vital tool in the management of many cancers and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. This body of work by internationally renowned authors includes section on surgical treatment of bladder and kidney cancers including the role of cytoreductive surgery in the era of targeted molecular therapy as well as sequence of treatment in locally advanced and metastatic renal cell carcinoma.

No discussion of cancer treatment is complete without inclusion of radiation therapy. There is ample discussion of different modalities of radiation therapy for prostate cancer. In this era it is critical that we not only think about treatment of cancer, but also consider the burden of treatment on the individual patients. Discussions of sexual health and fertility preservation are particularly germane in this regard. This book offers a comprehensive reference for urologist, oncologists and researchers seeking to gain the most up to date information about urologic cancers and provide state of the art care for patients.

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