

# PREFACE

The radiation oncology community has received the three previous editions of *Clinical Radiation Oncology* very well, and it has become the standard radiation oncology textbook for many physicians. For the fourth edition of *Clinical Radiation Oncology*, the intent is to maintain the many excellent features of the previous editions while adding some new features, new chapters and chapter authors, and one new Associate Editor. The most exciting new feature is that the chapters in the online version of the fourth edition of *Clinical Radiation Oncology* ([www.expertconsult.com](http://www.expertconsult.com)) will be periodically updated.

The fourth edition again has separate sections on Scientific Foundations of Radiation Oncology, Techniques and Modalities, and Disease Sites. Within the section on Scientific Foundations of Radiation Oncology, a new chapter has been added, "Radiation Physics: Stereotactic." In the section on Techniques and Modalities, the chapter on stereotactic irradiation has been divided into separate chapters, "Stereotactic Irradiation: CNS Tumors" and "Stereotactic Body Irradiation: Extracranial Tumors," in view of the expanded interest in and outcomes data for stereotactic body irradiation.

The associate editors for Disease Sites chapters were an important component of the success of the three previous editions and have been maintained. One new associate editor has been selected for the fourth edition—Dr. Andrea Ng for

Lymphoma and Hematologic Malignancies. Associate editors are involved in the selection of chapter authors and in editing the chapters for scientific content and accuracy. For most Disease Sites, the associate editors also wrote an Overview that allowed them to discuss issues common to various Disease Sites within the section and to give their unique perspective on important issues.

Features that are retained within Disease Sites chapters include an opening page format summarizing the most important issues, a full-color format throughout each chapter, liberal use of tables and figures, and a closing section with a discussion of controversies and problems and a treatment algorithm that reflects the treatment approach of the authors. Chapters have been edited not only for scientific accuracy, but also for organization, format, and adequacy of outcome data (disease control, survival, and treatment tolerance).

We are again indebted to the many national and international experts who contributed to the fourth edition of *Clinical Radiation Oncology* as associate editors, senior authors, or co-authors. Their outstanding efforts combined with ours will hopefully allow this new edition to be a valuable contribution and resource in the coming years.

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