

Colorectal cancer is a common source of morbidity and mortality, and as such merits study across the spectrum of its epidemiology, biology and therapy. This book aims to provide an integrated and comprehensive approach to colorectal cancer control, delivered by internationally well known and respected authors who write with clarity and authority. Rather than focus on a single topic, say genetics, we considered it important to cover all elements of disease control, given how interrelated and interdisciplinary medical science has become. If we are to prevent colorectal cancer, we must first understand its aetiology and biology, describe the role of population registries in monitoring incidence and death rates to assess the impact of screening and therapy, develop molecular models of carcinogenesis which can yield novel targets for drug development.

The first half of the textbook opens with introductory chapters covering the epidemiology and basic science that underpins our understanding of carcinogenesis and the cell biology that governs the cancer phenotype. This grounding in basic and translational science provides the platform for the precision cancer medicine which we hope will come to dominate therapy over the next decade.

Our aim for the second half of the textbook was to provide a series of treatment-based chapters written by expert teams from across the planet. Each chapter takes a multi-disciplinary approach to the diagnosis and management of colorectal cancer, covering radiotherapy, medical and surgical management of specific tumour stages. We have no doubt that decision making is significantly improved when a collective view is taken and that the multidisciplinary team is the clinical engine room of colorectal cancer care.

This is a time of extraordinary innovation in oncology, with improvements seen in each of the major therapeutic areas. Drawing on the combined wisdom and experience of an extensive list of internationally renowned contributors, we believe that this updated, reformatted and revitalised book provides an essential resource for oncologists in all fields at all stages in their careers.

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