Preface

Bladder cancer has been one of the major urologic cancers for decades. It is an interesting disease with a dual personality. The recurrent localized form which constitutes more of a "nuisance" and the high risk and invasive forms which are potentially lethal. Its association with smoking indicates that it is potentially a preventable disease. While a lot of attention was paid to bladder cancer research and treatment in the mid to latter part of the 20th century, the advent of serum PSA testing and identification of new surgical techniques for prostate cancer shifted attention away from bladder cancer towards the end of the 20th century. However the last decade has resulted in renewed interest in this disease. An improved understanding of disease biology, genetics and natural history have resulted from such work. New diagnostic markers, imaging tests and pathologic re-classifications have been proposed. New approaches to intravesical therapy have been established. New endoscopic techniques for enhanced discovery of tumors such as narrow band imaging and photodynamic diagnosis (blue light cystoscopy) have come into wide spread clinical use. Surgical techniques have been enhanced with the use of lasers and robotics. New agents for systemic chemo and immunotherapy have emerged. Such rapid advancement in knowledge is often attended by controversy. There are many nuances to bladder cancer care which require careful analysis and interpretation of available data. The collection of articles in this issue of "Key Leaders' Opinion on Hot Issues of Bladder Cancer" seeks to do exactly that. This compendium of papers identifies and dissects key issues in bladder cancer, some more controversial than others. Several important issues are well highlighted in this collection including the value of extended lymphadenectomy, the value of neoadjuvant chemotherapy, the limitations of BCG therapy, predictors of response to platinum based therapy, the value of immunonutrition and among several others. Each one of the articles is focused on a very current topic in bladder cancer care. The collection is an excellent guide and update on the latest in bladder cancer care. All healthcare professionals who deal with patients with bladder cancer will undoubtedly find this book to be a ready and valuable current guide and handy resource. The topics are very well curated and are authored by foremost authoritative experts in the field. I found it to be invaluable and I am certain that all readers will too.



Badrinath R. Konety, MD, MBA, MBBS, FACS
Henry P Russe, MD Dean, Rush Medical College;
Senior Vice-President for Clinical Affairs, Rush System of Health;
Professor, Division of Urology,
Rush University,
Chicago, IL, USA