

Our understanding of lung cancer has changed so dramatically in the past two decades as to be almost unrecognizable. The state of the art was once to choose chemotherapy based on schedule and toxicity, without regard even to whether it was squamous or non-squamous histology. In fact, the only distinction of interest was between small cell lung cancer (SCLC) and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Contrast that to 2020, when we would not even begin to treat a newly diagnosed NSCLC patient without first knowing if the histology was squamous or non-squamous, the PD-L1 status, and for non-squamous histology in particular, the status of at least seven different driver oncogenes (EGFR, ALK, ROS1, BRAF, RET, MET, and NTRK).

In this Second Edition of LUNG CANCER, a truly global group of experts, representing 16 countries, has come together to produce this outstanding overview. The intent was not to cover every topic in the field of lung cancer but to focus on several important areas and to provide different perspectives on those topics where there are differing opinions. Given how quickly the field is expanding, an exhaustive book on lung cancer would be obsolete in several areas before it could even be published. Thus, deeper exploration of different multidisciplinary topics is the focus.

The volume opens with a discussion of what is known about the epidemiology of lung cancer before diving into key topics on the molecular biology of the disease and important issues surrounding lung cancer screening. The topic of ground-glass and other screen-detected lung nodules presents frequent challenges for multi-disciplinary tumor boards, and experts from Japan and the US provide important guidance on the management strategies for lung nodules.

The vast majority of the collection is focused on best treatment strategies for patients with lung cancer. Several perspectives on uniportal thoracoscopic surgery and robotic thoracic surgery are complemented with manuscripts on enhancing recovery after thoracic surgery. Next, in-depth articles on several key driver mutations, including alterations in BRAF, EGFR, and ALK, are featured. Discussions of PD-(L)1 checkpoint inhibitor immunotherapy (IO) in the treatment of lung cancer follow including four perspectives on the use of IO in stage III NSCLC and four articles focused on first-line use of IO agents in NSCLC. More specific topics include the incorporation of IO therapy for EGFRmut NSCLC, combination IO/IO strategies, the incorporation of radiation with IO treatment, and the management of immune-related toxicities. These are many of the most pressing issues challenging active clinicians in the modern era, and the reader will come away with a significantly expanded understanding of these critical aspects of lung cancer management. The final section, which addresses a number of radiation therapy-related questions and explores novel techniques, includes four articles focused on proton therapy.

There has never been a more exciting time to be in the field of lung cancer research and treatment, nor a more promising time for patients diagnosed with the disease. This book represents a culmination of efforts directed by the vision of the Honorary Editors-in-Chief Nanshan Zhong, MD and Rafael Rosell, MD/PhD, along with Editors-in-Chief Jianxing He, MD/PhD/FACS, Thomas D'Amico, MD, and Xiuyi Zhi, MD, and Associate Editors-in-Chief Ming-Sound Tsao, MD/FRCPC, Toyooki Hida, MD/PhD, Suresh Ramalingam, MD/FASCO, Calvin S. H. Ng, MD, Wenhua Liang, MD and Yayi He, MD, PhD, as well as the outstanding work of the editorial staff of AME Publishing. I am certain readers will find this volume to be an important reference for these critical topics in lung cancer.

Heather A. Wakelee, MD, FASCO

*Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of Oncology,
Stanford University School of Medicine,
Deputy Director, Stanford Cancer Institute,
Stanford, California, USA*