

PREFACE

Cancer remains a major killer throughout the world. It is estimated that approximately one in three persons living in the United States will develop cancer during his or her lifetime, and one in four will die because of it. Despite major advances in the treatment of cancer, prevention remains the best method of cancer control. New techniques for early detection of precancerous conditions have been developed and new guidelines for cancer screening have been established. *Cancer Screening: A Practical Guide for Physicians* provides an up-to-date text on cancer screening, including epidemiology and biology of various cancers, rationale for the use of screening techniques, sensitivity and specificity of the methods, and algorithms for an overview at a glance. Discussions on cost-effectiveness, indication for consulting subspecialists, and a summary of key principles are also included.

Some countries have very high incidences of certain types of cancers, e.g., stomach cancer in Japan and esophageal cancer in China. Physicians in these countries have developed several innovative and simple, but cost-effective, methods for cancer screening. These methods may be of interest to readers in the United States as the incidence of some of these cancers is increasing. International experts have been invited to write chapters covering the major issues in cancer screening and prevention in their respective countries.

Recently several advances have been made in molecular genetics and imaging technology. One section of *Cancer Screening: A Practical Guide for Physicians* is devoted to the future prospects in cancer screening, including present and future application of molecular genetics and new radiological methods in cancer screening.

Cancer Screening: A Practical Guide for Physicians will provide a quick review of cancer screening for primary care physicians, internists, and various subspecialists, and will be a valuable reference book in the offices of all the physicians involved with cancer screening on a regular basis.

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Cancer Screening

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