

# Preface

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This book is intended for practitioners who manage patients with thyroid cancer and students who are learning about the disease. It aims to provide practical information about this diverse group of tumors to physicians, surgeons, and other healthcare providers involved in the day-to-day management of patients, while supplying a sufficient depth of intellectual material to spark the interest of serious students of the disease. An admittedly audacious goal, we believe this series of concise reviews by experts in the field, laced with more than two thousand figures, tables, and references, forms a robust basis for our overall approach to thyroid cancer. A broad variety of practitioners was necessary to write this book, reflecting the multidisciplinary team required to manage our patients. The careful reader will see some diverse views among authors, reflecting the usual differences of opinion in medicine, disagreements that we should embrace because they spark the fire of debate that generates new ideas.

We thank Sir Richard Bayliss for his kind words in the foreword of this book and my fellow editors for their thoughtful ideas and contributions. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to our multinational authors who focused their cumulative expertise and vast experience to bear on the ideas expressed in this book, while showing their passion for medicine on virtually every page – and they did this by generously contributing hundreds of hours of their time.

Chapter 5 is written by Jenny Pitman, a thyroid cancer patient who shares her emotional journey with our readers, one that grips virtually every patient with this disease. This is the story of a brave lady who reached deep into her soul to find the personal strength that was necessary to deal with the news that she had cancer . . . and then she shared this strength with other patients at the Royal Marsden and with our readers. We thank her for her contributions not only to the book, but to her fellow patients. She inspires all of us.

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A Multidisciplinary Approach

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