

## Series Preface

The subspecialty of cytopathology is 60 years old and has become established as a solid and reliable discipline in medicine. As expected, cytopathology literature has expanded in a remarkably short period of time, from a few textbooks prior to the 1980s to a current library of texts and journals devoted exclusively to cytomorphology that is substantial. *Essentials in Cytopathology* does not presume to replace any of the distinguished textbooks in cytopathology. Instead, the series will publish generously illustrated and user-friendly guides for both pathologists and clinicians.

Building on the amazing success of *The Bethesda System for Reporting Cervical Cytology*, now in its second edition, the series will utilize a similar format, including minimal text, tabular criteria, and superb illustrations based on real-life specimens. *Essentials in Cytopathology* will, at times, deviate from the classic organization of pathology texts. The logic of decision trees, elimination of unlikely choices, and narrowing of differential diagnosis via a pragmatic approach based on morphologic criteria are some of the strategies used to illustrate principles and practice in cytopathology.

Most of the authors for *Essentials in Cytopathology* are faculty members in The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Department of Pathology, Division of Cytopathology. They bring to each volume the legacy of John K. Frost and the collective experience of a preeminent cytopathology service. The archives at Hopkins are meticulously catalogued

and form the framework for text and illustrations. Authors from other institutions have been selected on the basis of their national reputations, experience, and enthusiasm for cytopathology. They bring to the series complimentary viewpoints and enlarge the scope of materials contained in the photographs.

The editor and authors are indebted to our students, past and future, who challenge and motivate us to become the best that we possibly can be. We share that experience with you through these pages and hope that you will learn from them as we have from those who have come before us. We would be remiss if we did not pay tribute to our professional colleagues, the cytotechnologists and preparatory technicians who lovingly care for the specimens that our clinical colleagues send to us.

Finally, we cannot emphasize enough throughout these volumes the importance of collaboration with the patient care team. Every specimen comes to us as a question begging an answer. Without input from the clinicians, complete patient history, results of imaging studies and other ancillary tests, we cannot perform optimally. It is our responsibility to educate our clinicians about their role in our interpretation and to integrate as much information as we can gather into our final diagnosis, even if the answer at first seems obvious.

We hope you will find this series useful and welcome your feedback as you place these handbooks by your microscopes and into your bookbags.

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# Preface

The study of breast disease by fine-needle aspiration, although diagnostically challenging, is a satisfying experience when accomplished properly, accurately, and as part of a team effort along with the radiologists and surgeons. Despite the upheavals that breast cytopathology has seen over the past decade with the advent of automated tissue biopsy devices, the procedure still plays an important role in most aspiration cytology laboratories, not only in major academic centers but also in many community-based practices. The spectrum of breast disease from nonneoplastic entities and pseudotumors to benign and malignant neoplasms is fascinating. Accurate interpretation requires careful evaluation of the often subtle cytologic characteristics but more likely hinges on a solid appreciation of the architectural appearance of the tissue fragments. Therefore, it goes without saying that for breast cytopathology, the interpreter requires knowledge and experience in the histopathology of breast disease.

Currently, there are a number of good texts available on cytopathology of the breast. However, in this book, the authors present their combined experience from three major U.S. teaching institutions (Johns Hopkins, University of Pittsburgh, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center) in a novel fashion: concise, methodical, and practical. The text has been kept to a minimum with only practical points of diagnostic importance. Differential diagnoses and pitfalls are included in an easy to read format. A generous number of

carefully selected high-resolution images reinforce the key morphologic characteristics of the lesions discussed, enriching the reader's concepts. This book is morphology based and is intended for anyone who interprets breast cytopathology, from trainees in pathology to cytotechnologists to more experienced cytopathologists. Similar to the other books in the series, the basic approach is to use this as a "handbook," a readily available and user-friendly reference for quick consultations available by the side of the microscope in daily diagnostic work.

Finally, the authors would like to acknowledge the tremendous help and assistance provided to us by Mrs. Frances Burroughs, education coordinator and director of the school of cytotechnology at Hopkins. Fran was instrumental in selecting just the right glass slide cases for us to digitize from an enormous collection of study sets at Hopkins. We are also indebted to Dr. Dorothy Rosenthal for her invaluable feedback and suggestions to further enhance the usefulness of this book. Last but not least, our appreciation and thanks to the residents and fellows, who were the major motivation and impetus for writing this book.

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