

# Preface

This volume of the M.D. Anderson Solid Tumor Oncology Series details the significant developments in the field of pancreatic cancer research, diagnosis, and treatment that have occurred in the past 5 years. The authors represent a diverse group of experts who have endeavored to provide a historical perspective on pancreatic cancer care, combined with a practical evaluation of available data, to allow clinicians to assimilate these facts into their treatment algorithms. While progress on the clinical front has been slower than desired, the ability to perform large-scale clinical trials in both the adjuvant and advanced disease settings has improved dramatically.

We have seen the development of the first mouse models that accurately recapitulate features of the human disease, tools that will enable pancreatic cancer researchers to ask new important questions aimed at early detection, biology, and therapy. An increased understanding of pancreatic cancer genetics and biology along with the rapid advancement of high throughput screening has led to the development of an unprecedented number of novel therapies for pancreatic cancer in preclinical and early phase clinical trials. The convergence of these events gives new hope that major advances in pancreatic cancer therapy will be realized during our lifetime.

We greatly appreciate the exceptional contributions of the authors, each of which reflects their commitment to the field of pancreatic cancer research and treatment.

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**Pancreatic Cancer**

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2008, XVIII, 744 p. 211 illus., 51 illus. in color.,

Hardcover

ISBN: 978-0-387-69250-0