Preface

Surgical pathology is the cornerstone in management of neoplastic disorders. With the advances made in our understanding of disease and application of new ancillary diagnostic studies the cross talk between surgical pathology and its related fields such as cytopathology and molecular diagnosis has become important for patient care and to provide the most accurate diagnosis. Endocrine tumors are common surgical specimens that pathologists encounter in their practice, so the text presented here should be useful for most general pathologists and pathologists in training.

In addition to the tumors of the usual endocrine glands we have included endocrine tumors of non-endocrine organs as well. As is discussed later by Dr. Runjan Chetty this system of specialized peptide producing cells that are distributed in various organs throughout the body share many properties with nerve cells; so for this group of tumors the terminology "neuroendocrine tumors" is preferred in this book. While the emphasis in this book is on the surgical pathology of endocrine and neuroendocrine tumors we have also provided sections on radiological imaging, cytologic diagnosis, and application of molecular diagnosis in these tumors. While the scope of the book does not allow us to go into the details, clinically pertinent information relevant for a surgical pathologist is provided in these sections and we hope the readers will find this information useful in better understanding these disorders.

The book was conceptualized with two main aims, one to put together an up-to-date text on surgical pathology of endocrine and neuroendocrine tumors that is practical keeping the practicing surgical pathologist in mind and second, to lay out the sections in some ways reminiscent to how the disease presents and the course taken during diagnosis. We therefore start with radiological imaging of tumors, which may be one of the first investigations a patient undergoes followed by a section on fine-needle aspiration biopsy that is the most important modality for pre-operative diagnosis that greatly assists in the surgical management. This leads into our main section on surgical pathology of endocrine tumors, which is the focus of the book and finally we end with application of molecular techniques, which are becoming more and more important and have great potential for the future. The authors selected to contribute to this book are a group of internationally recognized pathologists who are not only experts and have extensively published in their respective fields but more importantly are experienced practicing pathologists who bring their own valuable insights when discussing these tumors. I am personally very grateful to all the contributors who have taken time out of their very busy schedules to write these chapters. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the editorial staff at Humana/Springer for all their assistance and making this project possible.

Worcester MA *Ashraf Khan*

http://www.springer.com/978-1-60327-395-4

Surgical Pathology of Endocrine and Neuroendocrine Tumors

Khan, A. (Ed.)

2009, XII, 242 p., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-1-60327-395-4
A product of Humana Press