

Preface

The Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) has as its underlying principle that “Supportive Care Makes Excellent Cancer Care Possible.” This international group attracts a multidisciplinary group of support care practitioners and researchers to its annual symposia. Over the years it has expanded to having 17 study groups led by key professionals in their fields. More recent developments have seen a focus on survivorship. The groups have not only provided education, networking and the promotion of research but have produced guidelines and research and teaching tools.

With all of that expertise across the world, what better organisation could there be to produce a book on supportive care and survivorship, which spans the management of symptoms and the control of the side effects of treatment? The result is a textbook with authorship by experts from 17 countries. The authors are MASCC members and their colleagues, all of whom have volunteered their time and expertise to produce this comprehensive text.

The topics range from management of broad general symptoms such as pain and fatigue to the very specific details of toxicities affecting the eye. Special consideration is given to children and the elderly, to rehabilitation and to palliative care. The ongoing issues of survivorship embrace the physical, the psychosocial and the spiritual. As such this book will be a resource for people from a broad range of disciplines.

I am most grateful to the Board of MASCC for giving me the opportunity of participating in this exciting project and to work with so many talented experts across the world.

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