

Preface

Due to the nature of my practice in my capacity as the Director of Male Sexual & Reproductive Medicine at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, it has become clear to me that to date there does not exist a reference work devoted to the link between cancer and human sexuality. Thus, it has been an ambition of mine for some time to develop this book. The purpose of this text is to act as a resource for those clinicians caring for cancer patients as well as act as a reference text for the sexual medicine clinician who may not see a large number of cancer patients. I hope that physicians, researchers, nurses, and clinician trainees will find this a valuable resource.

In the twenty-first century, while cancer is endemic, so too is the survival of the cancer patient. It is well recognized that the diagnosis of cancer represents a major stressor in a person's life. Add to this the common treatments for cancer and one can see the potential for a negative effect of cancer on a person's sexual health. Increasingly, patients are winning their battle with cancer and are surviving long periods of time. We see daily in practice patients with cancer of the testis, prostate, breast colon, and hematologic malignancies. So, the concept of survivorship has become increasingly important to cancer clinicians. Survivorship has become a medical specialty itself and refers to the focus not just on curing cancer, but also dealing with the consequences of the diagnosis and treatment of that cancer. It has been recognized that for many cancer survivors, sexual function represents a significant concern. I hope this book will help you in the management of the survivorship issues of your patients.

Such an opus is impossible to accomplish without the assistance of many different parties. First of all, I would like to thank the associate editors of this project who were integral to the development of the table of contents, the selection of the authors, and finally the review of the manuscripts. In the world of sexual medicine, all three are instantly recognizable names. Dr. Irwin Goldstein is a urologist and one of the founding fathers of modern sexual medicine. He has been a mentor to me since my training with him 15 years ago and is the current editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Sexual Medicine*. Dr. Raymond Rosen is an eminent clinician-scientist who has spent three decades treating patients with sexual problems, researching sexual problems, and educating future sexual medicine clinicians. He is the lead scientist at the New England Research Institute, one of the preeminent

epidemiologic research centers in the United States. Dr. Luca Incrocci is a radiation oncologist, an executive board member of the International Society for Sexual Medicine, and the world's foremost authority on the impact of radiation on sexual function. I would like to thank each and every one of the authors who have contributed to this book. For anyone who has written a book chapter, it is easy to understand how much work this entails. I believe we have congregated the world's leading experts in their respective areas.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the staff at Springer for the expert guidance and assistance in bringing this idea from the initial vision to the completed work. A debt of gratitude is due to Paul Dolgert for spearheading the initial effort which was expertly taken over by Richard Hruska for the completion of the project. Finally, to Kathryn Hiler for practicing the proverbial "herding of cats" in getting all of the manuscripts into production.

I hope this book will be a success, will help you in your daily practice, and will translate into helping our cancer patients. In the 12 months or so since this project started, we as editors already have ideas about chapters that are missing and topics not covered, which we will hopefully address in the next volume of this work.

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