

Preface

Gastrointestinal oncology practitioners aim to establish effective prevention and treatment strategies for patients with malignancies involving the GI tract, ultimately leading to a reduction in morbidity and mortality from GI cancers. GI tumours arise from a number of distinct anatomic sites and may or may not share underlying biologic similarities; however, they differ in their required radiotherapeutic or surgical approaches for limited, curable disease, as well as their chemosensitivity and treatment patterns in the advanced or metastatic settings. The best therapeutic approach to these cancers is usually multidisciplinary, involving medical, surgical, and radiation oncologists, with strong input from pathologists, gastroenterologists, and specialists in diagnostic imaging. Making major strides in future GI cancer control will certainly involve both expert clinicians and researchers, specializing in areas including new drug development, clinical trial design, biostatistics, experimental and molecular therapeutics, and molecular pathology.

This edition of *Gastrointestinal Oncology: A Practical Guide* features chapters devoted to each of the major GI anatomic sites, as well as sections on diagnostic imaging, interventional GI oncology, practical correlative science, and non-site specific tumours such as neuroendocrine cancers and gastrointestinal stromal tumours. The emphasis of this text is to furnish useful, evidence-based clinical advice, highlighting the multidisciplinary nature of GI oncology practice. This remains an incredibly exciting time in medicine. The knowledge leaps in molecular oncology in general and characterization and treatment of GI malignancies specifically have been prodigious. We hope you find the information in this text useful, guiding your everyday practice and stimulating thought regarding potential future advances.

Vancouver, Canada
Frankfurt, Germany
Evanston, USA

Charles D. Blanke
Claus Rödel
Mark S. Talamonti

Gastrointestinal Oncology

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Blanke, C.D.; Rödel, C.; Talamonti, M.S. (Eds.)

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