

Preface

In reading the preface of *Radiation Treatment and Radiation Reactions in Dermatology* by Renato Pannizon M.D. and Jay Cooper M.D. (Springer 2004), we are reminded that we are following a great work which has been the standard textbook for radiation therapy of skin neoplasms for the last 10 years. It is a very succinct work with renowned contributors and expert editing which, through its various reprints, has guided dermatologists around the world for the last decade.

When asked to become editors of this 2013 edition of *Radiation Therapy for Skin Cancer* we knew it would be a hard task to equal their success. We decided that this text would continue to serve as a primer on the physics, radiobiology, and practical aspects of radiation therapy as it applies to appropriate treatment planning for patients with select tumors. We expanded the chapters on patient selection and fractionation to include flexible guidelines for calculating, and if necessary, adjusting the TDF (Time Dose and Fractionation) as well as other practical additions. In addition, we greatly expanded the chapters dealing with high risk tumors and their management by radiation oncologists. It is hoped that the specific chapters on high risk squamous cell carcinoma, Merkel cell carcinoma, angiosarcoma, lymphomas, and adjuvant radiation for melanoma will be a useful reference for all cutaneous oncologists.

The list of those to thank for their assistance and support is too long for this preface. The overall goal of this book is to aid practitioners in the safe, effective, and judicious use of this time-honored treatment method. We also believe that the continued collaboration of radiation oncologists and dermatologists will result in further knowledge and refinements of the radiobiology and physics of radiation and its broad spectrum and untapped potential. We hope this will result in this modality being more recognized and utilized by knowledgeable practitioners in both of our specialties for our increasingly aging and frail patients.

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