
Preface

At the second St. Gallen EORTC Gastrointestinal Cancer Conference held in St. Gallen, Switzerland on March 6–8, 2014, a group of renowned international experts came together to discuss the developments in diagnosis and treatment of early, potentially curable gastrointestinal malignancies. Nearly 300 participants from 43 countries took part in the 3-day conference that was organized by St. Gallen Oncology Conferences (SONK) and co-sponsored by the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) and SONK with contribution of the European School of Oncology (ESO).

The focus of this second conference lay on rectal cancer. The experts discussed molecular and pathologic characteristics of rectal cancer, preferred methods for initial staging, novel endoscopic and surgical techniques, multimodal therapeutic approaches including radiation and medical oncology as well as quality-of-life aspects. The concluding day of the conference was dedicated to an attempt on a consensus on diagnosis and treatment of potentially curable rectal cancer. The consensus statement will be published separately in a major oncology journal. The majority of the invited expert contributions to the conference, however, are published in this volume of the internationally well-known series, *Recent Results in Cancer Research*, by Springer. We very much hope you will enjoy reading its content.

The organizers of the conference invite interested clinicians and scientists involved in the field of gastrointestinal malignancies to the next international St. Gallen EORTC Cancer Conference that will be held in St. Gallen/Switzerland, 10–12 March 2016.

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