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## Preface

While there has been some progress in the field of biliary and gallbladder cancers, effective strategies to prevent, diagnose, and treat these malignancies remain a challenge for investigators and clinicians. Compared with other gastrointestinal malignancies, biliary and gallbladder cancers are somewhat rare. However, the incidence of biliary and gallbladder cancers appears to be on the rise worldwide. In addition, while uncommon, advanced biliary and gallbladder cancers are often associated with a high case-mortality. As such, there is a need for greater investigation into the causes and optimal therapeutic interventions of biliary and gallbladder cancer. Investigation into the mechanisms underlying the biology, as well as implementation of the optimal treatment, of biliary and gallbladder cancer, requires a multidisciplinary approach. Given the relative rarity of the disease and the multifaceted information necessary to understand its pathogenesis, much of the data on biliary and gallbladder cancer are scattered across the scientific literature. The purpose of the current book is to provide a comprehensive, unified, and definitive overview of biliary and gallbladder cancers.

Much like the first edition, we sought to recruit a broad representation of world experts to provide a global perspective on biliary and gallbladder cancers. In addition, authors from a wide range of disciplines were included to provide state-of-the-art updates on the epidemiology, pathogenesis, as well as diverse treatment of biliary and gallbladder cancers that include radiation, medical, and surgical oncology. The multidisciplinary approach to discussing the topics of diagnosis, treatment, and intervention is one of the main strengths of the book. As importantly, the reader is provided a comprehensive overview of the treatment of biliary and gallbladder cancer from a modern twenty-first-century perspective.

It is our sincere hope that the book helps to cultivate collaboration among scientists and clinicians who will continue to seek new knowledge to improve patient's care for patients with these malignancies. The book is dedicated to the researchers, clinicians, and support staff challenged with understanding and treating these difficult diseases. Most of all, the book is dedicated to all patients we treat with biliary and gallbladder cancer. It is our hope that in sharing the collective wisdom contained in this text we can help stimulate and encourage future collaborative efforts to find new ways to improve the quantity and quality of life of our patients with biliary and gallbladder cancers.

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