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## Preface

Gastric cancer has been declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) to be a Global Public Health Concern, with nearly 1 million new cases worldwide per year. Although the incidence is highest in Eastern parts of the world, South America and Eastern Europe; rates are also increasing in western countries such as the USA. Not only proximal gastric cancers are increasing in incidence but also distal gastric cancers in the young age group of 25–39.

In the last 15 years, our progress and understanding of this cancer have exploded. Revolutionary progress has been made in both the understanding of gastric cancer as a heterogeneous disease with many subtypes, as well as in our multidisciplinary strategies to treating gastric cancer—from minimally invasive techniques to novel chemotherapeutic agents. We have a far better understanding and with improved molecular characterization, these differences are becoming more apparent and hopefully will lead to better targeted approaches to the treatment of various forms of gastric cancer.

In this volume, there is the amalgamated knowledge of the foremost experts and leaders in the field of gastric cancer from around the world. Each author is a respected and recognized authority in his or her field that has been especially handpicked for the topics presented. Currently, there is no textbook entirely devoted to the pathophysiology, management, and treatment of gastric cancer. This textbook is designed to provide a comprehensive and current overview of the important issues specific to the field of gastric cancer. Care of these patients and clinical conditions can be quite complex, and materials have been collected from the most current, evidence-based resources, providing an overview of all aspects of gastric carcinoma, from the historical perspectives and epidemiology to the surgical approaches and oncologic treatments, to the most innovative, molecular advances that will further launch our understanding of this complex disease forward.

On behalf of all the authors and myself, we sincerely hope this text will serve as a valuable and useful guide of better understanding and treatment strategies for those who are interested in providing the very best approaches to the care of our patients with gastric cancer.

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Gastric Cancer

Principles and Practice

Strong, V.E. (Ed.)

2015, XVI, 333 p. 80 illus., 65 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-15825-9