

## PREFACE

As surgical oncologists working at a tertiary cancer center, we have seen major advances and recent changes in how we evaluate and treat patients with melanoma. Melanomas can present anywhere in the body and affect all age groups. We see all stages of melanoma and are seeing more advanced melanomas than ever before. Historically, surgery was the mainstay of therapy for most melanomas with few systemic options. However, through research advances and clinical trials, radiation and targeted immunotherapy have changed how we evaluate and manage melanoma patients. Nonetheless, there is much more that needs to be discovered through research and innovation in order to improve outcomes and increase awareness.

The purpose of this book is to provide an up-to-date, concise, multidisciplinary overview of the epidemiology, pathology, and current evidence-based treatment options for patients with all stages of melanoma. These aspects are presented in two sections: epidemiology and pathophysiology, and therapy and management. In section 1, five chapters provide a comprehensive overview of the epidemiology, heterogeneity, and biology of melanoma. In section 2, six chapters discuss the various treatment options and surveillance recommendations for afflicted patients.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of our internationally recognized melanoma contributing authors for their time, experience, and knowledge. We hope to provide helpful, relevant information for all physicians and researchers who may treat patients with melanoma in hopes of improving knowledge and improving the overall care of these patients.

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