



Foreword

Emerging Therapies in Thoracic Malignancies



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This issue of the *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America* covers the important topic of Emerging Therapies in Thoracic Malignancies. Thoracic cancers include a broad range of malignancies, such as lung cancers, mediastinal tumors, chest wall sarcomas, as well as thymic and tracheal lesions. Similar to the diverse types of cancers contained within the rubric of “thoracic malignancies,” the surgical procedures, systemic treatments, staging systems, as well as prognoses of these different diseases are varied. That said, one point of relative consistency has been the dramatic advances in the understanding of these diseases, as well as the progress in surgical and systemic treatments. In addition, successful management of thoracic malignancies is also unified by the need for a well-informed multidisciplinary approach that incorporates an understanding of thoracic anatomy, surgical techniques, oncologic principles, as well as underlying pathogenesis to inform optimal therapy. As such, surgeons need to be well versed in the latest data regarding the diagnostic and treatment options for patients with thoracic malignancies. In light of this need, I am delighted to have Dr Usman Ahmad and Dr Sudish Murthy as the guest editors of this important issue of *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America*. Dr Ahmad is a thoracic surgeon in the Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Department at the Cleveland Clinic, who is recognized for his expertise in the clinical management of patients with thoracic malignancies. Dr Ahmad has a strong interest in cancer outcomes research and has written many peer-reviewed publications and book chapters on thoracic cancer. His research has been presented at the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, American Association of Thoracic Surgery, and the International Thymic Malignancy Interest Group. Joining Dr Ahmad is Dr Murthy, who is the Section Head of Thoracic Surgery and the Daniel and Karen Lee Endowed Chair in Thoracic Surgery at Cleveland Clinic. Dr Murthy is a dedicated researcher and prolific writer. He has authored or coauthored more than 100 scientific articles in leading peer-reviewed medical journals and more than a dozen

chapters in medical textbooks. His research interests include lung cancer, lung transplant, and emphysema. These 2 editors bring a wealth of personal knowledge to this issue of the *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America* as our invited Guest Editors.

The issue covers a number of important topics, including the workup, as well as medical and surgical management of patients with mediastinal germ cell tumors, esophageal cancer, mesothelioma, chest wall sarcoma, and lung cancer. Dr Ahmad and Dr Murthy have assembled a wide array of expert authors to cover not only the surgical management of thoracic malignancies but also topics such as screening, staging, as well as targeted therapies, immunotherapy, and T-cell therapy. I want to thank all of our authors who contributed to this issue of *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America*, as well as Dr Ahmad and Dr Murthy for enlisting the help of this great group of authors, who are leaders in the field of thoracic malignancies. As you read this issue, I am convinced that you will experience firsthand the skill and talent of our authors to highlight the most relevant, topical, and up-to-date information relevant to caring for patients with thoracic malignancies. The knowledge contained in this issue of *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America* will well serve thoracic surgeons, oncologists, trainees, and other health care providers who care for patients with these challenging tumors. Once again, I would like to thank Dr Ahmad and Dr Murthy and all the contributing authors for an excellent issue of the *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America*.

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