

Preface

Updates in Thoracic Surgery and Oncology



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Editors

Surgery of the chest, particularly extirpative surgery for malignancy, is uniquely complex. Cancers are aggressive, and resectability is limited by both anatomic constraints and patient performance status. Unfortunately, locoregional as well as systemic recurrences are common with limited salvage options. The last 2 decades has seen tremendous advancements in thoracic oncology. Early detection and screening have reduced mortality for early esophageal and lung cancers. Moreover, locally advanced and systemic disease can be treated with targeted therapeutics and now immunotherapy. Surgical interventions have evolved as well with dissemination and application of minimally invasive approaches for all thoracic malignancies.

This issue of the journal provides a thorough discourse on contemporary issues and advances in thoracic surgery and oncology. The topics range from detection of early-stage cancers through screening to multimodal and immunotherapy for locally advanced and systemic disease. Intraoperative detection of small pulmonary tumors is an exciting area of research, and recent advances are highlighted. Exciting developments are being made in management of early-stage esophageal cancer as well as locally advanced disease and are expertly discussed. Important updates in the fields of pleural mesothelioma mediastinal tumors have also been detailed.

There is little doubt that there are exciting times ahead. Yet, we would be remiss if we didn't pause and acknowledge the giants upon whose shoulders we all now sit and those critical mentors who have so importantly shaped our thought processes and surgical judgment. Though there is simply not enough room to list all, those who stand out in our careers include F. Griffith Pearson, David J. Sugarbaker, Manjit S. Bain, Valerie

W. Rusch, and G. Alexander Patterson. We also very much recognize the support from our families.

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