



Foreword

Pediatric Cancer



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Consulting Editor

This issue of the *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America* focuses on the management of Pediatric Cancer. Despite advances over the last several decades, pediatric cancer remains among the top causes of death in children. While the profession of pediatrics has a tradition of treating a broad range of diseases, a specific focus on pediatric oncology was established in the mid-twentieth century. Specifically, Dr Odile Schweisguth is generally recognized as the first pediatric oncologist, after she was appointed to the Consultant post in 1948 at the Institute Gustave Roussy to establish a new pediatric section at this renowned cancer center in France.¹ Dr Schweisguth established an independent pediatric oncology ward that focused exclusively on the care of children with cancer. In turn, pediatric surgical oncology itself evolved as a clear subspecialty field within pediatric surgery. The treatment of pediatric cancers has evolved over time with marked improvements in survival for various malignant diagnoses. The advances in pediatric oncology have been derived from a broad systematic integrated multidisciplinary approach to the care of patients with childhood cancer. As clinical modalities and regimens have evolved, so has our understanding of the basic molecular biology of tumors. Amidst all of this, the surgeon has remained a critical and central member of the treatment team. Importantly, surgical treatment continues to change and evolve, with the role of surgery constantly being redefined.² In light of this, I am grateful to have Dr Roshni Dasgupta as the guest editor of this important issue of *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America*. Dr Dasgupta is a professor with the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Dr Dasgupta obtained her medical degree at the University of Toronto and subsequently completed her residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. She completed a Rhodes Scholarship at the University of Oxford in Oxford, England, followed by a Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada. Dr Dasgupta is the current chair of the American Pediatric Surgical Association Cancer Committee, as well as the Pediatric Surgical Oncology Research Collaborative. As such, Dr Dasgupta is imminently

qualified to be the guest editor of this important issue of *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America*.

The issue covers many important topics, including the treatment and surgical management of patients with a wide range of pediatric tumors. In particular, an impressive team of experts details the state-of-the-art management of various abdominal tumors, including neuroendocrine cancer, GIST (gastrointestinal stromal tumor), liver, and, among others, renal tumors. In addition, other important cancers that are prevalent in pediatric populations, such as melanoma and thyroid cancer, are covered. Furthermore, the role of minimally invasive and newer surgical techniques in the pediatric cancer population is addressed. Fertility considerations, which can be particularly germane to pediatric patients with cancer, are also discussed in detail.

I owe Dr Dasgupta a great debt of gratitude for her work to identify such a wonderful group of pediatric oncology leaders to contribute to this issue of *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America*. This team of authors has done a skillful job in highlighting the important and relevant aspects of caring for children with cancer. I am convinced that this issue of *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America* will serve faculty and trainees well in understanding the latest state-of-the-art practices related to the care of pediatric cancer. I would like to thank Dr Dasgupta and all the contributing authors again for an outstanding issue of the *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America*.

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