

## Preface

# Sarcomas



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*Guest Editor*

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this volume of *Hematology-Oncology Clinics of North America* regarding the topic of sarcomas.

We are on the verge of dramatic changes in how cancer is diagnosed and treated. The labors of the molecular biologic revolution that have begun to break open the nature of the cancer cell of the last 50 years are beginning to bear fruit. There is no better evidence of this than the demonstration of the effectiveness of tyrosine kinase inhibitors such as imatinib and SU11248 in gastrointestinal stromal tumors. However, we are still faced with the finding that nearly half of people diagnosed with sarcomas of soft-tissue or bone will die of their disease. Pediatric studies have yielded one improvement after the next in the treatment of osteogenic sarcoma, Ewing sarcoma, and rhabdomyosarcoma, whereas much more modest gains have been seen for sarcomas typically observed in adults.

In pediatric, adolescent, and adult sarcomas, multimodality care is standard, and it is not unusual for surgeon, radiation oncologist, pathologist, and medical oncologist to collaborate closely to achieve the best possible outcome. You will find in this volume articles on aspects of the management and biology of sarcomas that represent the standard of care in 2005. Though it is a rapidly changing

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field, evidence-based analyses of clinical studies form the bedrock of the management of these diseases. The integration of new treatments with present-day management will be one of many challenges in the future for this group of tumors. It is my sincere hope the reader will find useful and timely information in the articles herein to help guide integration of old and new findings alike.

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