



Foreword

Emerging perspectives in soft tissue sarcoma



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This issue of *The Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America* is devoted to soft tissue sarcomas. The Guest Editor is Raphael E. Pollock, MD, PhD, head of the Division of Surgery and Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgical Oncology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Pollock's experience with soft tissue sarcomas both in the research laboratory and the clinical arena is nationally recognized. This issue includes 11 articles that deal with everything from the molecular aspects of soft tissue sarcomas to imaging, staging, treatment, and clinical trials. Dr. Pollock has assembled a talented group of individuals in all of these areas to address some of the diagnostic and treatment issues facing patients with soft tissue sarcomas in the twenty-first century.

Although soft tissue sarcomas will make up an extremely small percentage of the 1,334,100 new cancer cases expected to be diagnosed in the United States in 2003, the evaluation and treatment of these sarcomas must be multidisciplinary. The multidisciplinary team should not only include the surgical, medical, and radiation oncologist; it should also include the radiologist and pathologist and the proper support services. At National Cancer Institute–designated comprehensive cancer centers, such as the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, translational research involving the collaboration of the clinician and scientist is important to continue advances in the etiology, diagnosis, and treatment of soft tissue sarcomas.

I congratulate Dr. Pollock and the authors that he has chosen for this edition of *The Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America*. I would also like

to congratulate Dr. Pollock for emphasizing to the senior authors the importance of involving trainees in the development of several of the articles. As I stated in my first foreword, mentoring trainees to produce high-quality manuscripts can sometimes be frustrating and involve endless hours of work; on the other hand, it is one of the most satisfying achievements within an academic environment.

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