

## Preface

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# A Comprehensive Review of Breast Cancer in Young Women

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This issue of Breast Disease is dedicated to a comprehensive overview of breast cancer in young women for all members of the healthcare team who treat women with breast cancer. Breast cancer requires multidisciplinary management, and as such this book provides input from epidemiology, basic science, surgical oncology, radiation oncology, medical oncology, plastic and reconstructive surgery, genetics, reproductive endocrinology, psychology, and nursing. Because breast cancer in young women occurs during the reproductive years, additional emphasis is placed on managing breast cancer in pregnant patients, as well as reproductive options for breast cancer survivors. The contributors to this issue of Breast Disease comprise 30 experts from 6 academic institutions across 10 disciplines. My hope is that such diversity in authorship will expand the depth and scope of this book.

Bonnie Yankaskas opens this issue by discussing epidemiology of breast cancer in young women, which provides a critical starting point for all other topics. I review the basic science literature pertaining to differences in expression of traditional biomarkers in breast cancers in young women compared to older women, as well as key advances that have expanded molecular classification of human breast cancer that transcends traditional tumor marker approaches. James Evans and

colleagues extensively cover genetics in breast cancer, followed by David Ollila's discussion of prophylaxis and screening options for women with BRCA mutations. Barbara Smith provides a detailed discussion of surgical options for young women with breast cancer, followed by a review of reconstructive surgery by Clara Lee, and of late effects of breast radiotherapy in young women by Lawrence Marks and colleagues. Adjuvant endocrine and chemotherapy is addressed by Lisa Carey, and a dedicated chapter to fertility sparing options for breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy by Ringland Murray is included. Pregnancy is a major issue in young women with breast cancer, and this is addressed in three chapters: First a discussion by Nora Hansen on the effect of future pregnancy on survival in women with a history of breast cancer, followed by the surgical treatment of breast cancer during pregnancy by Anthony Lucci, and the adjuvant treatment of pregnant women with breast cancer by Claire Dees and Frances Collichio.

Two special chapters conclude this issue of Breast Disease. Survivorship issues are of great concern to all women with breast cancer, but young women face unique psychosocial issues that are addressed by Donald Baucom, a clinical psychologist. Lastly, Susan McKenney, a nurse practitioner with a dedicated interest in breast cancer patients, summarizes the role of the nurse practitioner in coordination of care. Clearly, successful treatment of the patient with breast cancer not only depends on the acute care that they receive with surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy, but also on ad-

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addressing quality of life issues relating to relationships, family, and work. By presenting a clear and comprehensive review of all aspects of breast cancer treatment

in young women, we hope that we have provided a valuable resource to assist with patient care for all members of the multidisciplinary breast cancer team.