Preface to Second Edition

The second edition of this book attempts to capture the rapid developments in molecular advances in endocrine pathology that have occurred in the past few years.

This second edition continues the practice of utilizing the same general approach used by diagnostic pathologists as they examine endocrine lesions. Differential diagnoses based on the gross and histopathologic aspects of the lesions continues to be emphasized.

The field of endocrine pathology remains in rapid transition. The chapters in this book attempt to capture these dynamic changes by discussing the basic approach to diagnosing endocrine lesions in addition to examining the most significant developments in cell and molecular biology that help to understand the pathophysiology of disease processes. Many of these new observations will soon make their way to the diagnostic bench of the pathologist who now utilizes many immunohistochemical stains and a few molecular tools in establishing specific diagnoses of endocrine lesions. These new approaches are especially helpful when the pathologist receives a small biopsy with a few millimeters of tissues from a fine needle aspiration biopsy procedure.

The first chapter of this new edition is markedly expanded in attempts to capture most of the basic technical advances that have occurred in the past 5 years. An appreciation of the technical basis of these procedures provides insights for the critical evaluation of data generated with these techniques that the reader will encounter in the subsequent chapters.

New chapters providing more in depth examination of the endocrine thymus, endocrine lung, skin and placenta, as well as molecular developments in the analysis of pheochromocytomas and paragangliomas have been added. The importance of the medical work up of patients with endocrine disorders is emphasized in a new chapter on Biochemical Testing for Neuroendocrine Tumors. This new edition also contains many more color illustrations than the previous one.

The chapters on the treatment of endocrine disorders from the perspective of the surgeon, medical oncologists and radiation therapists who have major roles in the treatment of patients with endocrine disorders provides the pathologist with further insights into the role of each member of the endocrine working group in patient care.

We expect that the new technical and diagnostic advances that occurred between the first and second editions of this book will continue at the same rapid pace. It is only by learning about these advances as they emerge can we expect to deliver the best care to patients with endocrine disorders.

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