Over the last quarter of a century, significant and explosive advancements have been made regarding the study of colorectal cancer. The wealth of information evolving is far reaching. From the first case report of the loss of the long arm of chromosome 5 in a patient with Familial Adenomatous Polyposis, to the cloning and identification of multiple genes involved in hereditary colorectal cancer, the field has progressed so we can now offer our patients genetic predisposition testing and better clinical management. Molecular mechanisms and the implications that some of these changes have for our patients is better understood. Rather than only discussing therapy these advances now allow us to discuss surgical prophylaxis and chemoprevention. Advances in the knowledge of familial colorectal cancer have not come easy and are due to the hard work of inquisitive investigators and clinicians, the development of advance instrumentations and molecular genetic techniques and most importantly from our patients and families. Without them we would not have been able to achieve this feat. Still, there is more to be done in the field. There are yet undiscovered syndromes, genes and molecular alterations which can and will change the lives of families and individuals. Thus, we cannot rely solely on what has been done, but need to continue to question existing research in the future.

The lack of a comprehensive reference book on hereditary colorectal cancer has been our driving force. The editors have gathered a multinational panel of experts to address the issues in *Hereditary Colorectal Cancer*. This book goes beyond the historical aspects of Familial Adenomatous Polyposis and the Lynch Syndrome. It further encompasses the basic and clinical aspects of less common and less understood syndromes such as the Hamartomatous Polyposis Syndromes and MutyH Associated Polyposis. An important section of *Hereditary Colorectal Cancer* is devoted to genetic counseling, an evolving area. In this section, several leading authorities describe the issues pertaining to genetic counseling around the world and within registries. Also addressed are the psychosocial aspects of hereditary colorectal cancer. This book will serve as a clinical reference, however, it will be also a useful guide for basic scientists, genetic counselors, and those interested in hereditary colorectal cancer.

While the book was being edited, one of our contributors and friend passed away. Jeremy Jass was the ultimate translational scientist. He was a pathologist and a basic
scientist whose contributions to the field are too numerous to state. The editors would like to express their gratitude for his contribution as well as for all his contributions to the advancement of understanding colorectal cancer. We also would like to express our most sincere appreciation to the editors at Springer who have been immensely helpful and patient with us. Lastly we have to mention our patients and our families whom without their support this project would have not been possible.

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