Preface

Data is not information, information is not knowledge, knowledge is not understanding, understanding is not wisdom

—Clifford Stoll
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, USA

The last few years has seen the deluge of data regarding the alterations in breast cancers. Recent advances in technology also permit analysis of single cells for these alterations. However, clinicians and scientists faced with an onslaught of this data from the scientific and lay press are finding it difficult to distinguish data from information. The major question that arises is—how does it affect the lives of my patients? My research?

Molecular Pathology of Breast Cancer seeks to provide an overview of the recent advances in breast cancer and bring together the techniques, data, and knowledge to provide some understanding and wisdom. We believe that this work will represent a new and important resource for clinicians and scientists, by serving as a “ready reckoner.” The chapters, written by experts in the field, provide valuable information to those already involved in and familiar with the complexities of breast cancer. In order to introduce the territory to the novices, the chapters, while being detailed, have been kept short and the discussions brief. The hope is to make the topics “meaningful” but less intimidating for the audience.

It is clear that advances in molecular biology have provided exhaustive data regarding breast cancer. However, it is necessary to separate the wheat from the chaff. We are extremely grateful to the cadre of authors, who have graciously donated their time and energy to make this hard work possible. In a series of chapters within the book, these experts have presented most recent research and highlighted the direction for future research.

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