Preface

As we see the explosion of new treatment approaches for many diseases, medicine becomes more and more subspecialized, and subsequently there is increased fragmentation. As a result of this progressive partitioning of medical care, close collaboration between medical subspecialties becomes an essential component to effective health care. The emerging medical discipline of cardio-oncology is a prime instance when such cooperation is paramount. In adults, cancer and heart disease have remarkable similarities in epidemiology. These two diseases, cardiovascular disease and cancer, account for at least half of the reasons for death in developed countries. It is no surprise that these diseases may coexist in many patients, emphasizing the need for there to be close collaboration between oncology and cardiology specialists.

With this textbook, we hope to provide a clinically useful volume containing knowledge about cardiac complications of cancer therapy, treatment of cancer in patients with cardiovascular disease, and treatment of cardiovascular disease in patients with cancer for practicing cardiologists, medical and radiation oncologists, and trainees in these fields. The book has been edited by three oncologists and two cardiologists with the purpose of integrating the two medicine subspecialties to be clinically useful to the oncologist and the cardiologist in caring for these patients. Each chapter is coauthored by at least one oncologist and one cardiologist, in order to include the perspective of each discipline and make the text user-friendly and clinically applicable to both specialties as well as others. We believe that this is the first textbook of cardio-oncology to provide this comprehensive coverage from a truly multidisciplinary standpoint. Combined, the chapters provide a clinically relevant overview of the epidemiology, basic science, and clinical knowledge in the ever-expanding space in which cardiology and oncology overlap.

This textbook adds to available learning resources in that it expands the topic from one focused only on heart failure caused by cancer therapies to a more inclusive one, where multiple cardiovascular issues, including coronary artery disease, hypertension, and vascular complications, among others, are thoroughly considered. We also asked the authors to generally include practical management
approaches to common clinical problems in order be a useful guide to clinicians encountering these potentially difficult decisions. We hope that you find this text engaging and informative, but we also recognize this is a rapidly changing discipline. Perhaps by reading this text, a practitioner will be stimulated to contribute to our combined knowledge and advance the research in this invigorating discipline to continuously improve patient care.

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