
Preface

In 2002, Lippincott published the *Manual of Breast Diseases*, edited by Prof. Ismail Jatoi. That book was expanded and a larger text entitled *Management of Breast Diseases* was published by Springer in 2010, edited by Prof. Jatoi and Prof. Manfred Kaufmann of the Goethe-University of Frankfurt. Professor Kaufmann subsequently retired, and the current text is the second edition of the Springer text, with Prof. Achim Rody of the University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein in Lübeck, Germany now serving as co-editor. Many of the chapters have been extensively revised and numerous other authors have been added to the second edition of this text. We hope that this updated text will continue to serve as a useful guide to the wide spectrum of clinicians who treat benign and malignant diseases of the breast: surgeons, gynecologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, internists, and general practitioners.

Today, the management of breast diseases, and particularly breast cancer, is predicated upon the results of large randomized prospective trials. The authors of the various chapters in this text have highlighted the major trials that have contributed to our improved understanding and treatment of breast diseases. Many of these trials have, in particular, revolutionized the treatment of breast cancer. Indeed, there has been a very rapid decline in breast cancer mortality throughout the industrialized world since 1990, due largely to the implementation of the results of landmark randomized trials. For this progress to continue, we will need to design innovative trials in the future, and recruit large numbers of women into those trials. We should always be grateful to the thousands of women throughout the world who have participated in clinical trials, and thereby enabled progress in the treatment of breast cancer.

We are deeply indebted to all the investigators who have contributed chapters to this text. They have diverse interests, but all share the common goal of reducing the burden of breast diseases. We would also like to thank the editorial staff of the Springer publishing company for their continued assistance with updating this text. In particular, we are most grateful to Portia Levasseur of the Springer publishing company. Without Portia's persistence and diligence, this second edition would not have been possible. We hope that clinicians will continue to find this text to be an informative guide to the management of breast diseases.

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