**Preface**

*Pediatric Oncology Nursing: Advanced Clinical Handbook* is a joint effort between nurses in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This is the second edition, and has been another wonderful opportunity to bring together the expertise of hematology and oncology nurses from two continents. The book is designed to be a comprehensive clinical handbook for nurses in advanced practice working with pediatric hematology/oncology patients. Specific issues related to young children and adolescents with cancer and hematologic disorders are discussed.

Thirty-one contributors and two editors participated in the writing of this text. Individuals in advanced practice and academic roles – nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nutritionists, clinical instructors, lecturers, academicians, and educators – were involved. One of the most appealing features of this text is the vast experience represented by our authors from different countries and different educational backgrounds.

The book is divided into 5 sections: pediatric cancers, hematologic disorders, treatment of childhood cancer, side effects of treatment and disease, and supportive and palliative care. Many tables and illustrations are included for quick reference in the clinical setting. Future perspectives and opportunities for new treatment options and research are discussed.

Part I focuses on pediatric cancers – the leukemias, lymphomas, and solid tumors. The most common pediatric tumors as well as some rare tumors are discussed in regards to epidemiology, etiology, molecular genetics, symptoms and clinical signs, diagnostic and laboratory procedures, treatment, prognosis, and follow up care are included for each of the disorders.

Part III covers cancer treatment, including chemotherapy, radiation therapy, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, surgery, gene therapy, biotherapy, complimentary and alternative medicine, and clinical trials. The principles and description of treatment, method of treatment delivery, potential side effects, and special considerations for each type of treatment are discussed.

Part IV focuses on the side effects of cancer treatment in relation to metabolic processes and gastrointestinal, hematologic, respiratory, renal, cardiovascular, neurologic, musculoskeletal, integumentary, endocrine, and auditory systems. The incidence, etiology, treatment, prevention, and prognosis are included for each side effect reviewed.

Part V includes the essential information regarding supportive and palliative care of pediatric cancer patients. Nutrition, hydration, pain, blood transfusion therapy, growth factors, and care of the dying child and the family are covered. The principles of treatment for these conditions, method of delivery, and special considerations for certain conditions are included.

The Editors of Pediatric Oncology Nursing: Advanced Clinical Handbook want to recognize, thank, and acknowledge everyone who participated in the development of this text. We are profoundly aware of the personal time and commitment that was devoted to make this an outstanding resource and we are grateful. It is our hope that nurses in advanced clinical practice will find this publication useful, and that it will enrich knowledge and improve care for children and adolescents with cancer and hematologic disorders.

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