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# Preface

Collectively, cancer of the esophagus, stomach, and small intestine represents the second most common site and cause of death among the digestive system cancers. These disparate malignancies have one thing in common: that consistently effective treatment remains elusive. This volume of the *Atlas of Clinical Oncology* series published by the American Cancer Society brings together a talented and experienced group of contributors to provide, through prose and pictures, a current and thorough review of upper gastrointestinal cancer. Epidemiologic factors, molecular and biologic determinants, diagnostic/staging methods, and treatment modalities are described for each organ site. Advances in imaging, interventional gastroenterology, surgical technique, and combined-modality therapy are emphasized since they have had a substantial impact on the management of this challenging group of cancers. The future is bright and promising as the genetic events that dictate the malignant process are further elucidated, allowing therapy to be better tailored to both the patient and the tumor target.

The editors would like to thank all of the authors for their commitment in both time and scholarship to *Cancer of the Upper Gastrointestinal Tract* and for creating what we believe is a significant contribution to the literature. We would also like to acknowledge Charmaine Sherlock and Kimmy Rolfe at BC Decker Inc for their expertise and assistance in preparing this volume and thank Brian Decker for his invaluable suggestions and guidance in bringing this endeavor to completion.

MCP  
EEV  
RRW

November 2001

# Dedication

In memory of Michael Burt, MD, PhD, friend, colleague, and mentor who by his extraordinary example continues to inspire me

and

to Janice, Sara and Alexa who bring joy and meaning to each and every day.

Mitchell C. Posner

To my wife Tamara, and my children Natalie and Katherine.

Everett E. Vokes

To my wife Donna and my children Matt, Chuck and Ben.

Ralph R. Weichselbaum