American Cancer Society

Atlas of Clinical Oncology

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*Atlas of Clinical Oncology*

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Preface

Over the past decade, I have had the privilege of participating in the care of thousands of patients with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma (NHL) and Hodgkin’s disease (HD). During that time, the incidence of NHL has been rising. At the same time, the benefits of extensive research in tumor immunology and molecular biology have radically altered our understanding of lymphoma biology and new therapeutic agents have advanced rapidly from the laboratory to the bedside. Monoclonal antibodies and other targeted therapies have become a routine mode of treatment and bone marrow transplants have emerged as a standard of care for relapsed NHL and HD. Major prospective, randomized clinical trials have helped to define the current standards of care in lymphoma management. Simultaneously, enhanced recognition of unique immunologic markers has led to a revised pathologic classification of these diseases.

This volume on lymphoma is designed to summarize current knowledge on the pathology, epidemiology, molecular biology, presentation, and management of patients with both NHL and HD. I hope that these chapters will prove useful not only to the specialist in lymphoma but also to general oncologists and fellows who manage these diseases on a daily basis. The management and classification of lymphoma have grown increasingly complex, rendering it impossible for any one individual to maintain a comprehensive knowledge base of these diverse diseases.

I am indebted to all of the outstanding clinicians and scientists who have prepared such thoughtful, timely, and well-written chapters in their fields of expertise. These chapters not only present contemporary data but also should serve to stimulate further discussion and research for both the specialist in lymphoma and the general oncologist.

I appreciate the invitation and encouragement of Bruce Chabner to undertake the editing of this volume. Dr. Chabner has served as a mentor and friend and represents a role model for the academic clinician. Likewise, I thank Brian Decker for his editorial guidance and production assistance. His professionalism and attention to detail helped to bring this project to fruition.

Finally, I dedicate this volume to Sarah Jane, Lily, and Lucy (who arrived in time for its completion).

Michael L. Grossbard, MD
November 2001