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(Editors)

Retinoblastoma

With 52 Figures and 19 Tables

 Springer

Editors

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Foreword

Although rare, retinoblastoma has been at the forefront of cancer research and treatment for the last three decades. The two-hit hypothesis of oncogenesis proposed by Alfred Knudson provided the conceptual framework for tumor suppressor gene research and led to the discovery of the retinoblastoma pathway as a key element in cancer development. More recently, the treatment of children with retinoblastoma has also provided a model for modern approach to the cancer patient; state of the art retinoblastoma treatment can only be conceived in the context of the multidisciplinary approach needed to address the oncologic, ophthalmologic, and developmental dimensions of these unfortunate children.

Treatment of retinoblastoma has evolved at a significant speed over the last two decades; ocular salvage approaches are now at the core of modern treatments, and assessment of visual and functional outcomes have become priority. New discoveries in retinoblastoma biology are leading the way to the development of targeted therapies that could revolutionize our current approaches to the treatment of this malignancy. But as we continue to make progress in this challenging field, we must not forget those less

fortunate; while in the developed world eye preservation has become a priority, developing countries continue to face delays in diagnosis, poor access to care, and suboptimal treatment – the problem in the less developed world is cure.

In this book, we have invited a team of experts to address all those important aspects of retinoblastoma research and therapy - from biology to epidemiology to treatment. We hope that in subsequent editions we will be able to continue to provide updates on such exciting subjects.

As we finalize this work, we cannot forget those who preceded and mentored us, especially John L. Hungerford, FRCS, FRCOphth, Hans E. Grossniklaus, MD, Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, Anna T. Meadows, MD, and very especially the late Charles B. Pratt, MD. We also cannot forget our families and our patients, who have provided the inspiration to guide our careers. To all of them this work is dedicated.

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