Updates in Surgery
New Technologies in Surgical Oncology

Foreword by
Enrico De Antoni
The Italian Society of Surgery has taken the opportunity to offer its members and the medical community at large an update on new technologies in the detection and treatment of neoplastic pathologies. Progress achieved over the last few decades, especially in the field of oncology, has been unstoppable, necessitating an update on the methods used to examine patients and in turn the therapeutic protocols used in their treatment. Despite concerns over the enormous increase in the cost of healthcare, there is an irresistible drive by physicians and medical institutions to acquire state-of-the-art systems and to apply the most recently developed methods.

The Italian Society of Surgery has entrusted the subject of the Bi-annual, 2009 Report to Antonio Mussa, an internationally famous oncologist and surgeon, Director of the Oncology Department of the “Molinette” Hospital of Torino, and President of the Oncology Commission of Piemonte. Prof. Mussa has addressed many of the innovative scientific advancements in the 350 articles he has published to date and in the many congresses and meetings he has organized. His experience covers a wide range of medical specialties, from breast receptors to radio-immuno-guided surgery of various organs. His organizational skills have led to the creation of the Piemonte Oncological Network, the first and only such structure in Italy.

This volume is a particularly interesting scientific publication, of great significance to today’s clinical practice. As President of the Italian Society of Surgery, it is with great pride that I present this work. I sincerely recommend it to surgeons and oncologists as an excellent guide, one that covers all the therapeutic options in the treatment of neoplasms. The book’s detailed suggestions and explanations will facilitate the choice of the best treatment for patients, in terms of both cure and preservation of function.

Rome, October 2009

Enrico De Antoni
President
Italian Society of Surgery
I would like to thank the President and Board of Trustees of the Italian Society of Surgery for the opportunity to realize this important task, as well as all those who cooperated in the achievement of this project, particularly Professor Sergio Sandrucci, for his invaluable cooperation and support.

Oncological surgery consists of a moment in the diagnostic-therapeutic course of the patient. The outstanding progress that has taken place in the field of oncology in the last two decades has benefited from the development of new surgical techniques, which have allowed highly specialized oncological surgery and a surgical approach more thoroughly integrated within the context of multidisciplinary oncological treatment. Indeed, it is no longer acceptable that a surgeon care for an oncology patient without having broad therapeutic and diagnostic knowledge of the opportunities offered by other fields of medicine.

After many years of experience in general medicine, and after 20 years as Rector of the Institute of Oncological Specialization, I was eager to leave my own personal mark in the evolution of oncological surgery.

At the Oncological Institute, together with my colleagues, partners, and students, I have developed two post-graduate University Masters programs, one dealing with Palliative Care and the other with Oncological Surgery, which offer much more than the standard surgical knowledge. Undoubtedly, the aim of this collection of techniques, currently the most modern in this field, is to diffuse different types of knowledge and skills to other surgeons, in order to not only improve the lifespan of the oncological patient but also to preserve its quality.

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