

Introduction

This is the second Educational Book accompanying ECCO proceedings. The incentive is to provide state of art concepts over rapidly changing fields of knowledge, keeping an educational spirit and format. A large part of the scientific data contained in these six sessions and twenty-six papers is too recent to be found in classical oncology textbooks. It would request multiple bibliographic searches to be collected. Moreover, at completion of this search, one would need to make his own synthesis after a somewhat exhaustive reading. Thanks to the expertise of the chairmen and authors of this educational book, our reader should enjoy these keen overviews. The remit of the authors was to encompass all aspects of the allotted topic, including most recent prospects, and to state, whenever applicable, the level of evidence of the therapeutic recommendations.

The six educational themes selected for ECCO 12 include research methodology (from clinical trials to practice), common clinical situations (liver metastases, metastatic and recurrent breast cancers, ovarian cancers) and less frequent tumors (non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, childhood and adult soft tissues sarcomas). Diagnostic, therapeutic and research aspects are covered.

It may be of interest to know that the selection of chairmen and authors was finalized in November 2002. An outline was due by authors in January 2003, discussed and reviewed by chairmen and scientific editor in February 2003. The full paper first draft was expected in April-May and all revised papers sent back in June. Needless to say that full compliance to this tight schedule is *per se* a great achievement by all contributors.

I express my deep gratitude to all, especially to the chairmen who had sometimes to display some psychological know-how in addition to their expert comments. I wish to extend these thanks to Ms Davi Kaur, for acting very effectively as a dedicated managing editor during these almost nine months of preparation.

We hope you will appreciate this FECS newborn ...

Professor Jean-Claude Horiot
Scientific Editor