Preface

The second edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Atlas has been created as a compendium to the 7th Edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, which was updated and expanded in 2010 and continues to promulgate the importance of anatomical and pathological staging in the management of cancer. This Atlas has been viewed as a companion to illustrate the TNM classifications of all cancer sites and types that are included in the 7th Edition of the Manual. It is fully illustrated to give meaningful visualization at a glance to the TNM classifications and stage groupings and will serve as a useful reference for clinicians, registrars, students, trainees, and patients alike.

There have been many evidence-based changes in staging strategies in the 7th Edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, the differences compared to the 6th edition have been highlighted throughout the Atlas. This provides meaningful comparisons as well as a reference for teaching and training.

The 616 illustrations have been developed exclusively for the AJCC Cancer Staging Atlas by Alice Y. Chen, our exceptional medical illustrator. The drawings are specifically designed for simplicity and clarity and have been verified through multi-disciplinary vetting to ensure their accuracy and relevancy for clinical usage. Every illustration provides detailed anatomic depictions to clarify critical structures and to allow the reader to instantly visualize the progressive extent of malignant disease. Appropriate labeling has been incorporated to identify significant anatomic structures, and each illustration is accompanied by a relevant explanatory legend. Throughout all anatomic sites and cancer types, the newly developed illustrations reflect concepts that are more completely discussed in the 7th Edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual and the companion Handbook.

The AJCC Cancer Staging Atlas is an official publication of the American Joint Committee on Cancer and reinforces the AJCC's position as the leader in disseminating state-of-the-art information on TNM staging. The AJCC continues to have as its mission the education of physicians, registrars, and patients and the promotion of evidence-based patient management. The Atlas continues to enhance this mission. This project has been fully supported by our publishing colleagues at Springer and especially Margaret Burns, Richard Lansing, Gregory Sutorius, and Bill Curtis.

The editors of this most recent AJCC project wish to underscore the concept that TNM is a universal language, which must be applied by all clinicians caring for cancer patients. The creation of visual images of clinical and pathological staging parameters serves to clarify and augment this language. We dedicate this work to all of our patients and colleagues and hope that they too will benefit from this illustrated resource.

Carolyn C. Compton, MD, PhD
David R. Byrd, MD
Julio Garcia-Aguilar, MD, PhD
Scott H. Kurtzman, MD
Alexander Olawaiye, MD
Mary Kay Washington, MD, PhD