Urological Pathology

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Citation
Advances in Anatomic Pathology (2015) 22(1):69

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Commentary:
The authors of this new textbook on urologic pathology state in the foreword that they were inspired by the Taj Mahal to try to write this textbook as a contribution to the discipline about which they are passionate. Although this is a brand new textbook, it shares its name with 2 prior urologic textbooks, and the authors make it clear that they want this book to be part of that historic tradition. Indeed, one of the strengths of this text is its historical context: pathologic and diagnostic controversies are often discussed in the context of how the approach to the controversy has evolved over time. A result of this approach is that one can sometimes see how current diagnostic issues may yet still be evolving, and one can imagine that future editions of this textbook may take slightly different approaches to specific topics as new information becomes available.

The 4 authors of this textbook are all internationally recognized urologic pathology experts, and as such, it is not a surprise that the chapters written by them are all concise, up to date, and clinically useful. In addition, the authors have invited a “Who’s Who” of guest authors to help in writing individual chapters. These chapters are just as strong as those written by the main authors.

An added strength of this text is the attention the authors bring to topics that are of obvious interest to them. For example, the chapter on renal neoplasia has an extensive section on hereditary forms of renal carcinoma. The chapter on prostatic carcinoma presents Gleason grading twice: once as originally outlined by Dr Gleason and then again as updated by the most recent consensus conference. The classification of urothelial neoplasia is also presented in the context of how it has evolved over time.

The text also has a number of excellent charts and graphics outlining both molecular features of these tumors as well as practical aspects of processing and reporting. Overall this text does an excellent job of continuing the tradition of Urologic Pathology textbooks.

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