

Introduction

For the first time, to accompany proceedings at ECCO 11 — the European Cancer Conference, and for successive ECCO conferences, the Board of FECS has decided to produce an Educational Book to further promote the Federation's philosophy of a multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of cancer. We hope that you will find this book both instructive and useful to you in your daily practice.

The ECCO 11 Scientific Committee and the Education and Training Committee of FECS selected four of the most prevalent tumour types — breast, lung, prostate and colorectal cancer. They invited a basic scientist, a surgeon, a radiotherapist, and a medical oncologist to describe current knowledge and new developments in each of these cancers. Another chapter is devoted to cancer in the elderly, an issue which is becoming more and more important due to the growing numbers of elderly people. The last chapter deals with palliative care, a field in which every oncologist must play his part and in which also the nurses have a very important role. Each theme is covered in such a way that it gives a comprehensive overview of the subject. We hope this book, and the complementary educational sessions at ECCO 11, will be a valuable source of information to all those who work in oncology.

We would like to thank the chairmen of the sessions for their help in reviewing the manuscripts, and all the authors for their contributions. A special thank you, also, goes to Davi Kaur, managing editor, for her sterling work in coordinating and editing the manuscripts.

Professor D.J.T. Wagener
Scientific Editor

Professor D.K. Hossfeld
President, FECS