

BOOK REVIEWS

Cachexia and wasting. A modern approach. Giovanni Mantovani, Stefan D. Anker, Akio Inui, John E. Morley, Filippo Rossi Fanelli, Daniele Scevola, Michael W. Schuster, Shing-Shing Yeh (Eds). Springer, New York, USA, 2006, pp 756, ISBN: 978-88-470-0471-9.

Many diseases rapidly leading patients to death just a few years ago, are now better controlled by new therapies, and even if we cannot cure and eradicate them, their natural history has significantly increased by months and years. Although these new therapeutic strategies represent a remarkable advantage over the standards of care, it is impossible to ignore that many more patients are now facing the nutritional consequences of prolonged immunological and metabolic challenges deriving from ongoing diseases and aggressive therapies.

Aim of the volume, written by world-renowned scientists, is to provide the best available evidence on the pathogenesis, clinical features and therapeutic approach of cachexia, and to facilitate the understanding of the complex yet unequivocal clinical role of this syndrome, that truly represents a disease, or, better still, a disease within other different diseases.

High-grade gliomas. Diagnosis and treatment. Gene H Barnett (Ed). Humana Press, New Jersey, USA, 2006, pp 512, ISBN 978-1-58829-511-8.

Leaders in the field provide the latest information on the diagnosis and management of high-grade gliomas in this new groundbreaking text. The entire spectrum of issues pertaining to high-grade gliomas is covered, from the basics of clinical characteristics and management to the state-of-the-art in diagnosis and therapeutics. Forefront areas of clinical investigation are also covered with the promise of leading us to the treatments of tomorrow. The authors evaluate the latest molecular diagnostic techniques and their use with current histology. They later explore the most current imaging techniques for the diagnosis and monitoring of treatment, as well as the latest treatment strategies including surgery, radiation, and cytotoxic chemotherapy. All physicians treating brain tumors including neurosurgeons, neurologists and radiation oncologists will benefit from the coverage herein of the meaningful advances in our understanding of the biology of high-grade gliomas that are now leading to better, more rational, patient-specific treatments.