**NEW BOOKS IN PEDIATRIC RADIATION ONCOLOGY, BRIEFLY NOTED**

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The medical publishing industry continues to generate new titles of interest to the practicing pediatric radiation oncologist. I will, from time to time, briefly review these books in this section of our website.

Among the most interesting new books is Psychosocial Aspects of Pediatric Oncology edited by Shulamith Kreitler and Myriam Weyl Ben Arush from Tel Aviv and Haifa, Israel (published by John Wiley and Sons, Limited, United Kingdom, 2004, ISBN 0471499390). The authors review the medical and psychosocial aspects of cancer in childhood and, in the last section of the book, turn their attention to psychosocial interventions. Among the most interesting chapters is one providing a detailed analysis of a child’s subjective experience of cancer and different mechanisms of assessing the quality of life in children with cancer. The book also addresses means of aiding the pediatric cancer patient and his/her family with chapters on how to speak to children about serious matters, the use of art therapy, humor and pets as psychosocial interventions, and techniques of reintegration of the sick child into the school system. The contributing authors are drawn from pediatric cancer centers in the United States, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Israel, and the Netherlands. The pediatric radiation oncologist will find a wealth of interesting information about an often overlooked aspect of the management of children with cancer.

Two recent contributions address the long term consequences of childhood cancer treatment. W.H.B. Wallace and Daniel M. Green have edited Late Effects of Childhood Cancer (published in the United Kingdom by Arnold and distributed in the United States by Oxford University Press, 2004, ISBN 0340808039) This book appeared at about the same time as the second edition of Survivors of Childhood and Adolescent Cancer, a Multidisciplinary Approach edited by Cindy L. Schwartz, Wendy L. Hobbe, Louis S. Constine, and Kathleen S. Ruccione (published by Springer, 2005, ISSN 1613-5318). The text edited by Wallace and Green has contributing authors from the United Kingdom and United States. Organized by organ systems there are chapters on the long term ill effects of cancer treatment on the neurologic system, cardiovascular system, respiratory system, genitourinary and gastrointestinal systems, endocrine system, and musculoskeletal system. There are also special chapters which address the complications of bone marrow transplantation and second malignant neoplasms. Among the most unique chapters is an interesting contribution by Alexander McCall Smith on legal issues of long term cancer survivorship in childhood. If the name of the author sounds familiar, it’s because, when Professor Smith is not making contributions to the scientific and clinical literature, he is writing his extremely popular detective novels such as the Number One Ladies Detective Agency. The illustrations are quite clear and a wealth of useful information is provided.

In the book by Schwartz et al., the material is organized largely by organs with detailed chapters on the pathophysiology of late effects, their clinical manifestation, detection and screening, and their management. The publishing company has done an excellent job of graphic design of the book with pleasingly designed tables, illustrations, and algorithms. The authors are uniformly from the United States.

Nalin Gupta, Anuradha Banerjee, and Daphne Haas – Kogan have edited a new textbook entitled Pediatric CNS Tumors (2004, Springer, ISBN 3540002944). Similar to the book by Schwartz et al. the Springer company is to be complimented on the excellent graphic design of the book with particularly fine histologic illustrations of the common brain tumors and correlative CT and MRI images. Authors were drawn entirely from the United States with a very heavy participation from the University of California at San Francisco. The book is organized by individual tumor types with chapters on supratentorial gliomas, cerebellar astrocytomas, brain stem gliomas, ependymomas, and the other brain tumors of childhood. They are, in addition, some general overview chapters on neuroimaging and CNS tumors, surgical management, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy.

While practitioners increasingly rely upon computer data bases and library search engines, there is still nothing to match the satisfaction of holding a quality textbook in your hands and receiving the wise counsel of the authors. The four books, described above, are all fine contributions to this honorable tradition.