

Foreword to the Second Edition

I am pleased and honored to write this foreword to the second edition of Dr. Liang-Che Tao's monograph on *Transabdominal Fine-Needle Aspiration Biopsy*. This monograph has been extensively revised and extended by Dr. Grace Yang. It carries on as a significant reference text to an ever expanding and complex area of fine-needle aspiration biopsy. New observations in tumor pathology, classification of tumors, radiologic imaging methods and the specialized techniques of immunohistochemistry and molecular pathology have significantly expanded during the 16 years since the first edition of this monograph was published. The refinements in imaging equipment have greatly increased the interventional radiologist's reach such that not only are aspirations samples being taken from a growing number of asymptomatic masses within the abdomen but staging of cancer is also being performed. This is a considerable challenge to the cytopathologist, calling upon not only a substantial experience in the interpretation of cytologic and small biopsy specimens but also a broad knowledge of surgical pathology and the application of the special techniques of immunohistochemistry and molecular biology.

The continuing evolution of the classification of lymphomas requires not only that good morphologic samples be obtained by aspiration but sufficient specimen be available for flow cytometry and molecular genetics. All of this requires a close working relationship between the cytopathologist and interventional radiologist to maximize information for the benefit of the patient. That relationship has been well described in the current edition. It is equally important to assess the risk and benefits of transabdominal aspiration biopsy when considering assessment of the asymptomatic lesion, the

so-called “incidentaloma.” It is easy to employ new procedures but we must constantly be aware of the balance between good and harm to the patient by any new testing modality.

The readers will find in the second edition of *Transabdominal Fine-Needle Aspiration Biopsy* a well-illustrated and comprehensive guide to the interpretation of both common and uncommon lesions that may be encountered within the abdomen. The use of the Ultrafast Papanicolaou stain, devised by Dr. Yang, provides excellent cellular details as an aid in reaching the correct interpretation. The improvement in cell block preparation provides fine-needle core biopsies. Thus the pathologist can combine both cytopathology and traditional tissue pathology to arrive at the correct diagnosis and has available a more suitable sample in many cases for special methods, particularly immunohistochemistry. The emerging area where aspiration biopsy will become even more important is obtaining the sample for not only an interpretation but for a tumor profile using microarrays and the potential of developing tailored therapy. Dr. Tao remains as a pioneer cytopathologist in image-guided aspiration biopsy interpretation with both specimens from the thoracic and abdominal cavity. His lifelong devotion to cytopathology is carried on in the second edition of *Transabdominal Fine-Needle Aspiration Biopsy*.

William J. Frable, MD, FIAC
Principal Editor
Cancer (Cancer Cytopathology)
Professor of Pathology
Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center
Richmond, Virginia
May 25, 2006