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The modern era of gynecologic oncology surgery began in the 20th century with groundbreaking work by pioneering surgeons who explored novel surgical options for women with gynecologic malignancies. Gynecologic oncology was not approved as a subspecialty of obstetrics and gynecology until 1973, when the American Board of Medical Specialists approved it as a special qualification. Subsequently, the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) was created, and much of the credit for its foundation must be given to Hervy E. Avrette and John J. Mikuta. The first scientific meeting of the SGO was held in Key Biscayne, Florida, in 1969.

Over the course of the past century, this specialty has witnessed tremendous advances in surgical technique and indications. Major innovations have been seen in imaging, cancer detection, sentinel lymph node mapping, and technology with the introduction of laparoscopy and robotic surgery. The field has shifted from very aggressive and deferring procedures to more precise and conservative approaches. Women with gynecologic cancer have options that would never even have been considered until just a few years ago. In tumors of the vulva, patients no longer undergo morbid radical tumor resection along with extensive groin lymphadenectomy. Extensive work evaluating the role of local excision combined with sentinel lymph node alone has led to the current tailored approaches offered to patients and thus a decrease in rates of perioperative complications and long-term side effects, such as debilitating lymphedema. The management of cervical cancer has evolved from the times of ultraradical surgery, such as radical hysterectomy, to modified radical surgery, fertility-preserving radical trachelectomy, or simple conization. Patients with early cervical cancer should no longer be exposed to extensive lymphadenectomy but, rather, should undergo selective and targeted sentinel lymph node mapping. For patients with locally advanced cervical cancer, the role of pretreatment selective lymph node dissection has been established as a tool to more definitively focus on the area of interest for radiation therapy. In patients with endometrial cancer, laparoscopy or robotic surgery has provided impressive outcomes, including fewer intraoperative and postoperative complications, when compared with open surgery. Sentinel lymph node mapping algorithms have also

become standard of care in most centers, thus allowing patients to undergo less morbid procedures with faster recoveries. More recently, hysteroscopic resection of endometrial tumors in patients with low-risk disease has allowed young women interested in future fertility to undergo treatment that spares the uterus while at the same time treats the cancer. Even in the setting of advanced ovarian cancer, patients are more appropriately selected for up-front cytoreductive surgery or neoadjuvant chemotherapy according to the results of increasingly more accurate imaging modalities and through the direct assessment of abdominal tumor burden by means of laparoscopic surgery. Similarly, improvements in perioperative management and critical care allow surgeons to be much more aggressive when performing cytoreductive surgery or exenterative procedures in patients selected to undergo tumor debulking for advanced ovarian cancer.

*Principles of Gynecologic Oncology Surgery* is a broad and comprehensive textbook for all surgeons whose primary practice involves the care of women with gynecologic cancers. In each chapter, the reader learns the latest and most clinically relevant updates from the published literature on the topic of focus of that particular chapter. In addition, each chapter presents information in a format that is practical in the management of patients with gynecologic malignancies. For each disease site, the reader should appreciate standard recommendations in the initial evaluation, the preoperative workup, the step-by-step approach to the surgical procedures pertinent to that disease site, and the postoperative evaluation in the setting of complications for each of the procedures presented.

A number of chapters address topics that are all-encompassing in the field of gynecologic oncology surgery. These include chapters on Enhanced Recovery After Surgery, which is a topic of significant impact in the perioperative care of all surgical patients but one that is becoming increasingly more important in all women undergoing gynecologic surgery. In that chapter, the authors outline the current guidelines to be implemented in any Enhanced Recovery After Surgery program, with an emphasis on the importance of compliance with each of these guidelines and, ultimately, a summary of the outcomes associated with the implementation of such programs. The textbook