Diagnostic Pediatric Cytopathology and Histopathologic Correlation

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Preface

This book is intended to fill an education gap in pediatric cytopathology. In the past decade or so, there has been a profound evolution in the way we obtain tissue for diagnosis. With increasing frequency, we are required to do more with less. The current healthcare system is largely dictated by a need to decrease morbidity and to decrease cost. As such, we are likely to see an increase in the number of these minimally invasive procedures in our daily practice even in our youngest patients. Indeed, much can be done with limited samples. This is in part thanks to the exponential growth of molecular diagnostic tools. Still, morphology remains the most important aspect of our specialty and it is unlikely that despite the advance in molecular techniques, it will wholly supplant the microscope.

While cytopathology and histology beautifully complement one another, historically we as pediatric pathologists have reluctantly kept the two separate. Perhaps this is due to the under emphasis during our training of the synergistic value of the two complementary rather than disparate approaches. In this book, we integrate the features of individual cells with architecture to approach our cases from both angles. Experts from various institutions have shared their experiences in each chapter (organized by organ system) with real-life cases and the end result is likely to become a classic but has the most up-to-date molecular genetic features. More and more of what we do every day is multi-parametric whereby we integrate the clinical, morphologic, immunophenotypic and genetic features to arrive at the most precise diagnosis possible.

This book could not have come along at a more opportune time given the above reasons. It is our hope that this book with the more than 1000 high quality illustrations will serve as a reference for pediatric pathologists or cytopathologists who will likely encounter pediatric cases in their daily practice, as well as residents or fellows in training to help facilitate their understanding of a wide range of tumors or tumor-like conditions in children.
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To Cláudia, with love.

Miguel Reyes-Múgica, MD