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Cancer and Sexual Health

Editor

John P. Mulhall, MD

*Department of Surgery, Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center, New York, NY, USA*

Associate Editors

Luca Incrocci, MD

*Department of Radiation Oncology, Erasmus MC-Daniel den
Hoed Cancer Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands*

Irwin Goldstein, MD

*Director, Sexual Medicine, Alvarado Hospital,
San Diego, CA, USA
Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of California
at San Diego, San Diego, CA, USA*

and

Raymond C. Rosen, PhD

New England Research Institutes, Watertown, MA, USA

Editors

John P. Mulhall, MD
Department of Surgery
Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center
New York, NY
USA
mulhaljl@mskcc.org

Luca Incrocci, MD
Department of Radiation Oncology
Erasmus MC-Daniel den
Hoed Cancer Center
Rotterdam
The Netherlands
l.incrocci@erasmusmc.nl

Irwin Goldstein, MD
Director Sexual Medicine
Alvarado Hospital
San Diego, CA
USA
and
Clinical Professor of Surgery
University of California at San Diego
San Diego, CA
USA
dr.irwingoldstein@gmail.com

Raymond C. Rosen, PhD
New England Research Institutes
Watertown, MA
USA
rrosen@neriscience.com

ISBN 978-1-60761-915-4 e-ISBN 978-1-60761-916-1
DOI 10.1007/978-1-60761-916-1
Springer New York Dordrecht Heidelberg London

Library of Congress Control Number: 2011924544

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Printed on acid-free paper

Humana Press is part of Springer Science+Business Media (www.springer.com)

Preface

Due to the nature of my practice in my capacity as the Director of Male Sexual & Reproductive Medicine at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, it has become clear to me that to date there does not exist a reference work devoted to the link between cancer and human sexuality. Thus, it has been an ambition of mine for some time to develop this book. The purpose of this text is to act as a resource for those clinicians caring for cancer patients as well as act as a reference text for the sexual medicine clinician who may not see a large number of cancer patients. I hope that physicians, researchers, nurses, and clinician trainees will find this a valuable resource.

In the twenty-first century, while cancer is endemic, so too is the survival of the cancer patient. It is well recognized that the diagnosis of cancer represents a major stressor in a person's life. Add to this the common treatments for cancer and one can see the potential for a negative effect of cancer on a person's sexual health. Increasingly, patients are winning their battle with cancer and are surviving long periods of time. We see daily in practice patients with cancer of the testis, prostate, breast colon, and hematologic malignancies. So, the concept of survivorship has become increasingly important to cancer clinicians. Survivorship has become a medical specialty itself and refers to the focus not just on curing cancer, but also dealing with the consequences of the diagnosis and treatment of that cancer. It has been recognized that for many cancer survivors, sexual function represents a significant concern. I hope this book will help you in the management of the survivorship issues of your patients.

Such an opus is impossible to accomplish without the assistance of many different parties. First of all, I would like to thank the associate editors of this project who were integral to the development of the table of contents, the selection of the authors, and finally the review of the manuscripts. In the world of sexual medicine, all three are instantly recognizable names. Dr. Irwin Goldstein is a urologist and one of the founding fathers of modern sexual medicine. He has been a mentor to me since my training with him 15 years ago and is the current editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Sexual Medicine*. Dr. Raymond Rosen is an eminent clinician-scientist who has spent three decades treating patients with sexual problems, researching sexual problems, and educating future sexual medicine clinicians. He is the lead scientist at the New England Research Institute, one of the preeminent

epidemiologic research centers in the United States. Dr. Luca Incrocci is a radiation oncologist, an executive board member of the International Society for Sexual Medicine, and the world's foremost authority on the impact of radiation on sexual function. I would like to thank each and every one of the authors who have contributed to this book. For anyone who has written a book chapter, it is easy to understand how much work this entails. I believe we have congregated the world's leading experts in their respective areas.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the staff at Springer for the expert guidance and assistance in bringing this idea from the initial vision to the completed work. A debt of gratitude is due to Paul Dolgert for spearheading the initial effort which was expertly taken over by Richard Hruska for the completion of the project. Finally, to Kathryn Hiler for practicing the proverbial "herding of cats" in getting all of the manuscripts into production.

I hope this book will be a success, will help you in your daily practice, and will translate into helping our cancer patients. In the 12 months or so since this project started, we as editors already have ideas about chapters that are missing and topics not covered, which we will hopefully address in the next volume of this work.

New York, NY

John P. Mulhall, MD

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Contributors

Tierney A. Lorenz

Department of Psychology, University of Texas at Austin,
1 University Station A8000, Austin, TX 78712, USA

Francesca Albani

Gynecological Endocrinology and Menopause Unit,
Department of Internal Medicine and Endocrinology, IRCCS
Maugeri Foundation, University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy;
IRCCS Fondazione “S. Maugeri”, Via Ferrata 8, 27100, Pavia, Italy

Tariq F. Al-Shaiji

Division of Urology, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Canada

J. Alder

Division of Social Medicine and Psychosomatics,
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology,
University Women’s Hospital Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Stanley E. Althof

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, USA;
Center for Marital and Sexual Health of South Florida,
West Palm Beach, FL 33401, USA

Alison Amsterdam

Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA

Linda L. Banner

Center for Sexual Health, San Jose, CA 95124, USA

Anthony J. Bella

Greta and John Hansen Chair in Men’s Health Research,
Division of Urology, Department of Surgery, University of Ottawa,
Ottawa, ON, Canada

Nelson E. Bennett

Department of Surgery, Urology Service, Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center, New York, NY, USA

J. Bitzer

University Women’s Hospital Basel, 4031 Basel, Switzerland

Trinity J. Bivalacqua

The James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital,
Baltimore, MD 21287, USA

Stephanie O. Breukink

Department of Surgery, University Hospital Maastricht, Groningen,
The Netherlands

Gerald B. Brock

Division of Urology, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Canada

Gregory A. Broderick

Department of Urology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Jacksonville,
FL 32224, USA

Arthur L. Burnett

The James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital,
Baltimore, MD 21287, USA

Lara J. Burrows

Summa Health System, Akron, OH, USA

Susan Carr

Head of Psychosexual Service, Royal Womens Hospital, Parkville,
VIC, Australia

Culley C. Carson, III

Division of Urology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Arthi Chawla

Department of Urology, Section of Andrology, Tulane University Health
Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA 70112, USA

Eric Chung

Department of Urology, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Ipswich Rd,
Woolloongabba, QLD 4103, Australia

Pierre Clément

Pelvipharm Laboratories, Orsay, France

Maura N. Dickler

Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center,
New York, NY, USA

Don S. Dizon

Obstetrics-Gynecology and Medicine, The Warren Alpert Medical
School of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA

Melissa A. Farmer

Department of Psychology, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

Julie Fitter

Department of Sexual Medicine, Porterbrook Clinic,
Sheffield S11 9BF, UK

W.L. Gianotten

Rehabilitation Sexology, Centre for Physical Rehabilitation,
De Trappenberg, Huizen, The Netherlands

Jason Gilley**Van Anh T. Ginger**

Department of Urology, University of Washington, Harborview Medical
Center, Seattle, WA, USA

Annamaria Giraldi

Psychiatric Center Copenhagen, Sexological Clinic, Copenhagen, Denmark

François Giuliano

Pelvipharm laboratories, Orsay, France;
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Neuro-Uro-
Andrology Unit, Raymond Poincaré Hospital, Garches, France;
EA4501, University of Versailles-St Quentin en Yvelines, Orsay, France

Gale H. Golden

Department of Psychiatry, Private Practice, University of Vermont
Medical College, Burlington, VT, USA

Shari Beth Goldfarb

Departments of Medicine and Epidemiology and Biostatistics,
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, USA

Corrie Goldfinger

Department of Psychology, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada

Andrew T. Goldstein

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The George Washington
University School of Medicine, Washington, DC, USA

Irwin Goldstein

Sexual Medicine, Alvarado Hospital, San Diego, CA, USA;
University of California at San Diego, San Diego, CA, USA

Alessandra Graziottin

Center of Gynecology and Medical Sexology, H.San Raffaele Resnati,
Via Santa Croce 10/A, 20123 Milan, Italy

Rachel Hamilton

University of Michigan, School of Social Work, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA

Klaas Havenga

Department of Surgery, University Medical Center Groningen,
Groningen, The Netherlands

Wayne J.G. Hellstrom

Department of Urology, Section of Andrology, Tulane University Health
Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA 70112, USA

Anthony N. Hoang

Division of Urology, University of Texas Medical School at Houston,
Houston, TX 77030, USA

J.A. Hordern

Cancer Council Victoria, Cancer Information and Support Service,
1 Rathdowne Street, Carlton, 3053

Luca Incrocci

Department of Radiation Oncology, Daniel den Hoed Cancer Center,
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Emmanuele Jannini

School of Sexology, University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila, Italy

Pernille T. Jensen

Subspecialist Consultant Gynaecologic Oncology, Department of
Gynecology and Obstetrics, Copenhagen University Hospital Herlev,
Herlev, Denmark

Anne Katz

Manitoba Prostate Center, Cancer Care Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Joanne Kelvin

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10021, USA

Sheryl A. Kingsberg

Division of Behavioral Medicine, University Hospitals Case Medical
Center, Cleveland, OH, USA;
Department of Reproductive Biology and Psychiatry, Case Western
Reserve University, School of Medicine, Cleveland, OH, USA

Michael L. Krychman

Medical Director of Sexual Medicine Hoag Hospital, Executive Director
of the Southern California Center for Sexual Health and Survivorship
Medicine, Associate Clinical Attending University of Southern California,
Newport Beach, CA 92663, USA

Tuuli M. Kukkonen

Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition,
University of Guelph, 50 Stone Road East Guelph, ON, Canada

Helen R. Levey

The James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital,
Baltimore, MD 21287, USA

Roy J. Levin

Sexual Physiology Laboratory, Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield S11 9BF,
Yorkshire, England

Laurence A. Levine

Department of Urology, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago,
IL 60612, USA

Stacy Tessler Lindau

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Department of Medicine-
Geriatrics, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637, USA

Tom F. Lue

Department of Urology, University of California at San Francisco,
San Francisco, CA, USA

Sharon Manne

Section Chief of Population Studies, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey,
Professor of Medicine, UMDNJ – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Mary S. McCabe

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10021, USA

Stephen E. McKim

Division of Urology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Chris G. McMahon

University of Sydney, Australian Center for Sexual Health, Sydney, Australia;
Berry Road Medical Center, Suite 2-4, 1a Berry Road, St Leonards,
NSW 2065, Australia

Cindy M. Meston

Department of Psychology, University of Texas at Austin, Austin,
TX 78712, USA

Francesco Montorsi

Department of Urology, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy

Abraham Morgentaler

Division of Urology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,
Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02445, USA

Marian J.E. Mourits

Department of Gynaecology, University Medical Center Groningen,
University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands

Mark A. Moyad

Department of Urology, University of Michigan Medical Center,
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0330, USA

John P. Mulhall

Department of Surgery, Urology Service, Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center, New York, NY, USA

Rossella E. Nappi

Research Center for Reproductive Medicine, Section of Obstetrics
and Gynecology, Department of Morphological,
Eidological and Clinical Sciences, University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy;
Gynecological Endocrinology and Menopause Unit,
Department of Internal Medicine and Endocrinology,
IRCCS Maugeri Foundation, University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy;
IRCCS Fondazione “S. Maugeri”, Via Ferrata 8, 27100 Pavia, Italy

Rachel B. Needle

South University, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale-Davie,
FL, USA; Positive Friends

Christian J. Nelson

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences,
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10022, USA

Corey A. Pallatto

Department of Psychology, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA

Sharon J. Parish

Department of Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
and Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY 10467, USA

James G. Pfaus

Department of Psychology, Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology,
Concordia University, Montréal, QC, Canada

Michael R. Pinsky

Department of Urology, Section of Andrology, Tulane University Health
Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA 70112, USA

Yasisca Pujols

Department of Psychology, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA

Caroline F. Pukall

Department of Psychology, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada

Mathew C. Raynor

Department of Urology, Section of Andrology, Tulane University Health
Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA 70112, USA

Alessandra H. Rellini

Department of Psychology, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, USA

Claudio A. Romero

Division of Urology, University of Texas Medical School at Houston,
Houston, TX 77030, USA

Andrew J. Roth

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences,
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10022, USA

Raymond C. Rosen

New England Research Institutes, Watertown, MA, USA

Eusebio Rubio-Aurioles

Asociación Mexicana para la Salud Sexual, A.C. (AMSSAC),
Tezoquipa Mexico City, México

Antonino Saccà

Department of Urology, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University,
20132 Milan, Italy

Stacey Sandbo**Sabina Sarin**

Department of Psychology, McGill University, 1205 Dr. Penfield Avenue,
Montreal, QC, Canada

Audrey Serafini

Specialty School, San Raffaele Hospital, Milan, Italy

Rany Shamloul

Division of Urology, Department of Surgery, University of Ottawa,
Ottawa, ON, Canada

Alan W. Shindel

Department of Urology, University of California at San Francisco,
San Francisco, CA, USA

Jonathan Silberstein

Division of Urology, University of California at San Diego,
San Diego, CA, USA

Susan Kellogg Spadt

Pelvic and Sexual Health Institute of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Kyle R. Stephenson

Department of Psychology, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
78712, USA

Maria Rosa Strada

Rehabilitative Oncology Unit, IRCCS, Maugeri Foundation, Pavia, Italy;
IRCCS Fondazione “S. Maugeri”, Via Ferrata 8, 27100, Pavia, Italy

Karen L. Syrjala

Biobehavioral Sciences, Clinical Research Division,
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA 98109, USA;
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences,
University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98109, USA;
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center,
Survivorship Program, Seattle, WA 98109, USA

Raanan Tal

Department of Surgery, Male Sexual and Reproductive Medicine Program,
Urology Service, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York,
NY, USA

Frederick L. Taylor

Department of Urology, Rush University Medical Center,
Chicago, IL 60612, USA

Marcel D. Waldinger

Division of Pharmacology, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences,
Faculty of BetaSciences, University of Utrecht, Universiteitsweg 99,
3584 CG Utrecht, The Netherlands

Run Wang

Division of Urology, University of Texas Medical School at Houston,
Houston, TX 77030, USA;
Department of Urology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer
Center at Houston, Houston, TX 77030, USA

Kevan Wylie

Department of Sexual Medicine, Porterbrook Clinic,
Sheffield, S11 9BF, UK; Department of Urology, Royal Hallamshire
Hospital, Sheffield, UK

Claire C. Yang

Department of Urology, University of Washington,
Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA, USA

Jean C. Yi

Biobehavioral Sciences, Clinical Research Division, Fred Hutchinson
Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA 98109, USA

Brad Zebrack

University of Michigan, School of Social Work, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA