



# Pediatric urologic oncology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: where we stand and where we're headed

In comparison to other surgical specialties, the field of pediatric urologic oncologic surgery has a relatively brief—albeit eventful—history. Our current care pathways owe a great debt to a series of benchmark advances in anesthesia, perioperative care, pharmacotherapy, and surgical technique that have occurred over the past several decades. As anesthesia has become increasingly safe and as radiotherapy and chemotherapy have become increasingly effective, cures have become increasingly commonplace and our collective clinical focus has evolved from improving treatment efficacy to reducing patient morbidity. Accordingly, the goals and limitations of our field have constantly needed to be defined and re-defined in order to keep up with the ever-faster tides of change in the care of our young patients.

In times of rapid change, it is sometimes useful to pause for a moment and reflect on what we have long known, what we have recently learned, and what we have yet to fully understand. To that end, this issue of *Translational Andrology and Urology* is devoted to the contemporary practice of pediatric urologic oncology. Some of the best and brightest clinicians who take care of pediatric urologic oncology patients have graciously agreed to share their expertise and insights on a range of topics. These include reviews of hereditary cancer syndromes, imaging guidelines, oncofertility, surgical conundrums, and advances in chemotherapy for germ cell tumors, Wilms tumor, and rhabdomyosarcoma, in addition to a pair of reviews highlighting specific oncology challenges in patients with spina bifida or disorders of sex development. We sincerely hope that this special issue will be a useful addition to our readers' practice and to the pediatric urologic oncology literature.

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