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978-0-521-85482-5 - Cognition and Cancer  
Edited by Christina A. Meyers and James R. Perry  
Frontmatter  
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# Cognition and Cancer

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## Preface

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This volume is different from anything that has been published in the fields of oncology and neurosciences. The study of cognitive function in cancer patients is in its infancy, and far behind the research in other diseases. However, cognitive impairment and other adverse symptoms associated with cancer are becoming increasingly important to patients and are identified as a major source of concern for survivors. To date there is no comprehensive text that brings together the basic research and clinical perspectives of the many disciplines involved in understanding the impact of cancer and cancer treatment on brain function. Thus, we felt there was a growing need to address cognitive function across cancers and treatments as a resource for oncologists and other professionals who treat cancer patients and those who are involved in translational research that has an impact on cancer-related symptoms. We are pleased that we have brought together the research and views of the most prominent professionals in the field of cognition and cancer. The book is intended to be accessible to a diverse audience: research and clinical neuropsychologists, neuroscientists, medical and neuro-oncologists, surgeons, radiation oncologists, palliative care health teams, nurses, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, and postgraduate trainees and fellows in these disciplines.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions made by our colleagues and our patients from whom we learn daily. We also appreciate the help of Lori Bernstein, Ph.D, who was involved in the conceptual development of the book in its early

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stages, as well as the tireless support and enthusiasm of Betty Fulford and Laura Wood of Cambridge University Press. We would also like to acknowledge the leadership of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and the University of Toronto for having the foresight and wisdom to embrace an interdisciplinary approach to neurosciences, including cross-programmatic collaboration, which this book embodies. We also acknowledge our families for

their patience and unselfish support of projects that take us away from them.

As the book cover implies, solving the disorders of the brain and mind in cancer patients is multifaceted, challenging and at times frustrating, but, in the end, solvable. We hope that this text serves to enhance the quality of life of cancer patients and stimulates awareness, research, and knowledge transfer in the area of cognition and cancer.