

# Preface to the third edition

We continue to be delighted with the success of this textbook and grateful for the many comments and suggestions sent to us by colleagues round the world. In the few years since the last edition was published many new palliative care services have been established, Palliative Medicine has been recognized as a specialty in more countries, and everywhere this textbook has come to be recognized as the definitive text on a fast-developing subject.

Our editorial team has changed. Our sense of loss when Neil MacDonald had to retire from the team was, to some extent, eased when he agreed to write several chapters and when we found not one, but two distinguished colleagues to replace him. Neither needs much introduction. Nathan Cherny, an Australian-trained physician works in Jerusalem, but is equally well known and respected in the United States where he pursued his studies in Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Sir Kenneth Calman, now Vice Chancellor of Durham University, England was previously the first professor of oncology in the University of Glasgow and instrumental in establishing palliative care services in that city before becoming, in turn, the Chief Medical Officer, Scotland and Chief Medical Officer, England.

We introduced many changes and innovations into the second edition and in this, the third edition, we have made even more changes—many of them suggested by readers. In many respects this is a new book; so comprehensive are the changes. There are new chapters devoted to palliative medicine in the context of care of the elderly and intensive care. A chapter is devoted to complementary and alternative medicine in relation to patients receiving palliative care, and a whole section to the contributions to palliative medicine of allied health professionals as they are now termed.

Increasingly is it being recognized that the principles of palliative medicine are applicable in the care of people with non-malignant conditions.

Reflecting that we have introduced chapters on non-malignant respiratory disease, non-malignant neurological disease, cardiac disease, dietary and nutritional problems, while many other sections from previous editions have been totally rewritten, often by new authors whom we have been delighted to welcome to this work.

So important do we regard education and training in our subject that this section has also been rewritten and the opportunity taken to introduce new ideas and new technologies such as internet learning and video conferencing. Readers will not be surprised to see lists of recommended websites, and references to websites.

We feel privileged to have worked with contributors from so many countries including Australia, Canada, China, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and the United States. All exceedingly busy, they have willingly written for our textbook and shared their wealth of knowledge and clinical experience. Our especial thanks, however, must go to our secretaries, Debbie Ashby in Bristol and Judith Sunter in Durham, to our professional colleagues, to Catherine Barnes and all at Oxford University Press, and to Mukesh of Newgen Imaging.

As with previous editions we dedicate this textbook to suffering patients around the world and to our colleagues who care for them.

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