Preface and Acknowledgments

I first met Dana Dreibelbis at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. Rutgers University Press offered me the opportunity to edit a short clinical book as part of a new publishing initiative. I immediately knew that I wanted to put together a book that summarizes the seminal clinical trials that have shaped the practice of gynecologic oncology.

Clinical trials have been instrumental in creating our current clinical practice paradigms. A clinician taking care of a woman with gynecologic cancer needs to understand this history in order to deliver evidence-based care. In some cases, clinical trials findings result in clear establishment of standard of care therapy. In other cases, optimal treatment regimens are not yet defined, but clinical trials provide data to inform the clinician regarding treatment options and ongoing controversies.

The clinical trials history of any field is vast, making it difficult and time-consuming for any individual to collect and synthesize. Currently, a textbook focused on clinical trials in gynecologic oncology does not exist. Clinical trials are discussed in general textbooks but often within lengthy chapters that cover many other topics. There is no standardized formatting and the reader must wade through the text in order to find relevant information.

The concept for this textbook is to provide a concise, user-friendly reference that focuses solely on clinical trials in gynecologic oncology. The text is formatted in a standardized fashion so the reader can rapidly find relevant information. The seminal phase III trials that have shaped the field are outlined in a standard format to include the details on the rationale for the trial, the patient population studied, treatment details of the

experimental arms, assessments, endpoints, statistical considerations, results, conclusions and further commentary. Standardized tables highlight the salient and relevant results by summarizing patient characteristics, treatment delivery, efficacy and toxicities from each seminal phase III trial. The full reference and PMID number are provided for each study so that the reader can easily find the original text and reference for further reading.

A list of the abbreviations used in the text is provided at the end of the book for the reader’s convenience.

This text focuses on the seminal phase III clinical trials that have been conducted in patients with epithelial ovarian cancer and represents the first in a series of books. Similar textbooks outlining clinical trials in other gynecologic malignancies such as uterine and cervical cancer are forthcoming. I am so appreciative to Dana Dreibelbis and the rest of the staff at RUP for giving this series of textbooks the opportunity to exist.

The care of women with gynecologic malignancies is shaped through the rich history of clinical trials. There is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to making treatment decisions. Rather, there are a varied number of treatment options for various clinical scenarios and clinicians often need to make treatment recommendations based on nuances such as individual patient and tumor characteristics as well as treatment side effect profiles. I hope you will find this book to be a useful reference to easily find information regarding the efficacy as well as toxicity profiles of various treatment regimens.