

ADVANCE PRAISE for *Patients but no Patience*

Patient but no patience describes the personal journey of Victor Levin in the early days of modern oncology and the development of research and treatment of brain tumors. His journey started in the era before CT and MR brain imaging became available, at a time when all established tumor treatments were still to prove their role in the field of brain tumors. The memoir describes the development of the early clinical trials, combinational regimens including the still important PCV schedule, the mathematical modelling of the penetration of compounds into brain tumors using animal models, pharmacokinetics of agents used in brain tumors, the early clinical studies in this field, the development of nitrosourea's, studies on the interactions between anticonvulsants and alkylating agents, the change from whole brain radiotherapy to involved fields radiotherapy, the concerns about radiotherapy induced cognitive deficits, development of tyrosine kinase inhibitors: it's all there.

There is a vivid description of the first gatherings of brain tumor investigators and the birth of neuro-oncology groups, and of the first early brain tumor centers with many of the names that changed our field. This autobiography is a very personal document, honest, about ambitions, achievements, and disappointments. In many ways Victor Levin was a pioneer and a leading figure in the field of neuro-oncology, many of the topics he worked on and of which he understood the importance of are of relevance and still with us. But the book is also a time capsule; for those who want to understand the history of the early beginnings of the field this is a must read.

—**Martin van den Bent**, MD, PhD, Professor in Neuro-Oncology,
Erasmus University Rotterdam and Head Neuro-Oncology
Unit at Erasmus Medical Cancer Center, the Netherlands

This memoir is an insightful commentary of Dr. Levin's personal and professional academic journey that is conveyed with thoughtful reflection and honesty. While highlighting his successes and achievements, he also bravely describes the challenges he faced and his own shortcomings. For anyone in the field of Neuro-Oncology, there are so many lessons to be learned, especially about bringing to reality a vision to improve the care we provide to our patients as well as the importance of education and professional community. In addition to his accomplishments in building programs at UCSF and at MDACC, his contribution to the formation of the Society of Neuro-Oncology is a testament to his incredible passion, dedication, and generosity.

—**Susan Chang, MD**, Professor, Department of Neurosurgery
and Co-Program Leader of the Neuro-Oncology Program
in the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center,
University of California San Francisco

This book offers an intimate portrait of the life, accomplishments, and at times struggles, of a pioneering clinician-scientist who devoted his career to improving outcomes for patients with brain tumors. Interwoven with personal anecdotes and touching patient vignettes, Victor Levin sets out the foundations of the modern-day field of neuro-oncology, chronicling his efforts, as well as those of his many colleagues and trainees, to combat what remains one of the most challenging and complex areas of cancer medicine. In order to know where we are going, we must first understand where we are from, and in *Patients but no Patience*, Dr. Levin offers us a rich historical context upon which future generations of multidisciplinary neuro-oncology cancer researchers can build upon to realize a more hopeful and promising future for patients suffering from devastating CNS tumors.

—**Chas Haynes, JD**, Executive Director of the Society
for Neuro-Oncology

This is a remarkable memoir of a man who is arguably the founding father of modern neuro-oncology. The seasoned practitioner will be encouraged by the slow but steady progress Dr. Levin made throughout his half century career, whereas the early career physician will have a role-model to pursue novel therapies driven by science and clinical trials to provide the practice-changing therapies that will eventually cure brain cancer. A must read for clinicians and basic scientists alike who are interested in central nervous system neoplasia.

—**Edward G. Shaw, MD, MA**, Emeritus Professor of Radiation Oncology and Geriatrics, Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC, and Past-President, Society for Neuro-Oncology

The seven years I spent with Victor in San Francisco and Houston was the brightest time in my life. Through his targeted remarks and swift actions, I was able to learn from his pragmatic optimism and problem-solving abilities. I joined Victor's UCSF lab in 1988. It was just around the time that he was starting the first in the world effort to try and develop an inhibitor of the c-Src tyrosine kinase and he was putting all his energy into it. The time I spent with Victor in San Francisco and Houston were the brightest time in my life. In retrospect, a multidisciplinary program to develop inhibitors of c-Src was a tremendously advanced idea at the time. This memoir tells of his motives and inspiration when he started the project. He has always had amazingly advanced and original ideas and the ability to solve difficult problems and learning them from him has changed my life significantly. This memoir describes how the philosophy and capabilities underlying my lifelong mentor's ideas and actions was constructed before we met and what he continued to accomplish until he retired in 2021.

—**Hideyuki Saya, MD, PhD**, Emeritus Professor, Division of Gene Regulation, Institute for Advanced Medical Research, Keio University School of Medicine, and President of Japanese Cancer Association