Diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer have undergone a major transformation during the past few years, generating tremendous excitement among physicians and patients. Although many of these advances are still in early stages, overall, there is now great hope where once there was little hope for patients with lung cancer. The advent of clinically meaningful molecular targeted therapies and corresponding predictive biomarkers, advanced imaging techniques for in vivo diagnosis, as well as new developments in screening, staging, and classification of lung cancer, have all contributed to this revolution in diagnosis and treatment of the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States and worldwide.

The Houston Lung Symposium took place on April 28 and 29, 2012, combining the Spring Seminar of the Houston Society of Clinical Pathologists with the Advances in Lung Cancer Seminar of the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine of The Methodist Hospital. Twenty internationally renowned experts from North America, Europe, and Asia provided recent updates and highlighted imminent developments in the diagnosis and treatment of pleuropulmonary disease for the 21st century.

Proceedings of the Houston Lung Symposium and complementary articles are included in a 2-part Special Section of the Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, the first part of which appears in this issue. In addition to our speakers, exhibitors, and general registrants, I wish to recognize the following supporters and special guests who participated in the symposium.

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