This text is the most complete and extensive work available on the use of opioids for cancer pain, and is an important reference for those clinicians treating individuals with cancer.

- Editors from 3 continents have produced a truly global perspective on the use of opioids in malignant disease
- Aids understanding of opioids and their effectiveness, essential to any clinician prescribing this type of drug
- Includes a review of all the major opioids

New to this edition:
- An editor from the UK, Columba Quigley, has joined the established editor team of Mellar Davis, Paul Glare and Janet Hardy, making the new edition even more international in scope
- New chapters on opioids in paediatrics, and opioids in developing countries, address the unique needs of these patient groups
- More focused attention on the differing uses of opioids, as separate chapters are devoted to dosing strategies in acute pain, and dosing strategies in chronic pain
- Buprenorphine has been added to the list of opioids covered, reflecting its common use in Europe and the debate surrounding its use in the United States
- Organ failure is now covered
- Issues of addiction and substance abuse are now addressed
- The palliative care perspective has been strengthened, with the role of opioids in the terminal phase now included
- Incorporates new studies in opioid pharmacogenetics, a topic which may have significant implications for the use of these drugs in the future