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# Preface

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The last century witnessed many changes in the practice of medicine. As we move into the 21st century, we will see more and more procedures performed with minimally invasive, image-guided techniques. At the forefront of this revolution is the specialty of interventional radiology. Interventional radiology traditionally involves the treatment of vascular disease, but has grown to include nonvascular intervention and, recently, the treatment of spinal disorders.

The objective of *Interventional Radiology of the Spine: Image-Guided Pain Therapy* is to provide the practicing interventional radiologist with a single source for evaluating and treating the patient with back pain. This includes discussion of interventional spinal procedures, spinal imaging, and the clinical evaluation of the spine patient. The practicing pain specialist will also find this work useful because radiological spinal imaging is included, a topic most pain management textbooks lack. Imaging has become an essential element in the evaluation of patients with back pain.

The book is divided into two sections: Part I: Spinal Anatomy, Imaging, and Clinical Evaluation; and

Part II: Interventional Spinal Procedures. Topics in Part I include basic spinal anatomy, CT, MRI, and nuclear medicine of the spine, and the clinical evaluation of the spine patient. Topics in Part II include discussion of the history of spinal procedures, review of the pharmacology of medications used in injection procedures, selective nerve root blocks, epidural injections, facet injections, sacroiliac joint injections, discography, treatment of discogenic back pain, spinal biopsy techniques, percutaneous vertebroplasty, and transcatheter therapy for tumors of the spine.

The topics covered in this book should provide the reader with a useful, comprehensive, state-of-the-art reference on minimally invasive, image-guided spinal procedures, as well as a review of anatomy and imaging findings in spinal disorders. The hope is that *Interventional Radiology of the Spine: Image-Guided Pain Therapy* will allow more interventionalists to fully employ the skill and expertise that they possess to the evaluation and treatment of patients with back pain.

**J. Kevin McGraw, MD**



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