
Preface

Never before has so much information on current criminal cases and the associated forensic pathological matters been so readily available to so many people. The media seem to carry an increasing number of crime stories that touch detail nearly every day. The Internet provides widespread and virtually unlimited access to information (and misinformation) on all types of forensic pathological and medicolegal scenarios.

More than ever, there is a need for fixed points of reference by which both common forensic pathological entities and specific pathological conditions that are only rarely encountered in the autopsy room can be judged based on expert review, evaluation, and recommendation. The *Forensic Pathology Reviews* series has the goal of increasing a point of reference.

Of course, solving forensic pathological problems effectively requires a strong base of knowledge of pathology combined with personal experience and critical appraisal skills. Successful forensic pathologists and medical examiners weigh the importance and validity of the data they collect from the victims of homicide, suicide, and accidents as well as from those who expire from natural causes using sound reasoning based on probabilities, and a broad knowledge of the pathological and clinical features presented by these fatalities, in order to generate a thoughtful, convincing, and appropriate approach to establishing the cause and manner of death and the reconstruction of events. Encountering and solving problems in forensic pathology—particularly challenging cases—continues to be a source of great professional satisfaction.

It is a pleasure to express my gratitude to the many colleagues from all around the world who have so generously contributed to the *Forensic Pathology Reviews* series by making their scientific and practical knowledge accessible to the broad international readership of this series.

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