
Preface

Developments in teleradiology are progressing at great speed. As a consequence, there is a need for a broad overview of the field. This first-ever book on teleradiology is presented in such a way that it should make it accessible to anyone, independent of their knowledge of technology. The text is designed to be used by *all* professionals, including radiologists, surgeons, nurses and allied health professionals, and computer scientists.

In a very short time, driven by technical developments, the field of teleradiology has become too extensive to be covered by only a small number of experts. Therefore, *Teleradiology* has been written with chapter contributions from a host of renowned international authorities in teleradiology (see the Contents and the Contributors). This ensures that the subject matter focusing on recent advances in teleradiology is truly up to date. Our guiding hope during this task was that as editors of multiple chapters we could still write with a single voice and keep the content coherent and simple. We hope that the clarity of this book makes up for any limitations in its comprehensiveness.

The editors took much care so that *Teleradiology* would not become merely a collection of separate chapters but, rather, would offer a consistent and structured overview of the field. We are aware that there is still considerable room for improvement and that certain elements of teleradiology are not fully covered, such as legal matters and reimbursement policy. The editors invite readers, clinicians, and students to forward their valuable comments and feedback to further improve and expand future editions of *Teleradiology*.

Books on theoretical and technical aspects inevitably use technical jargon, and this book is no exception. Although use of jargon has been minimized, it cannot be eliminated without retreating to a more superficial level of coverage. The reader's understanding of the jargon will vary depending on his or her background, but

anyone with some background in computers, health, and/or biomedicine would be able to understand most of the terms used. In any case, an attempt to define all jargon terms has been made in the Glossary.

Teleradiology has been organized systematically. The format and length of each chapter are standardized, thus ensuring that the content is concise and easy to read. Every chapter provides a comprehensive list of citations and references for further reading. Numerous drawings and clinical photographs throughout the book illustrate and illuminate the text well, providing its readers with high-quality visual reference material. Particularly useful features of this text are that each chapter has a summary of salient points for the reader.

The book comprises 21 chapters and begins with a brief introductory chapter explaining the basic concepts that are the mainstay of teleradiology, and subsequent chapters are built on those foundations. Within each chapter, the goal is to provide a comprehensive overview of the topic. The chapters on telemedicine law are deliberately placed in this first edition of the book to emphasize the fundamental importance of these topics. Nevertheless, its content is not inclusive, since opportunities are progressively arising in this domain. The final chapter covers future directions of teleradiology.

This book would not have been possible without the contribution of various people. We acknowledge and appreciate the assistance of all reviewers and Latika Hans, editorial assistant from Bangalore, India. We would like to thank all authors for making this book possible through their contributions and constant support.

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Teleradiology

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