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## Preface

Since the introduction of the flexible bronchoscope by Dr. Ikeda in Japan, bronchoscopy has been limited to the inspection of the mucosal surface of the airways. However, the airway wall and parabranchial structures, such as lymph nodes, even though frequently of crucial importance to the examination, still could not be visualized and evaluated. After decades of conventional bronchoscopy, the introduction of endobronchial ultrasound was the first really new imaging modality and it completely changed the endoscopist's capabilities. The use of EBUS can be a liberating experience, as the natural limitations of endoscopy are overcome and the mediastinal structures are open for exploration, evaluation and guided biopsy.

The editors and contributors to this book have been deeply involved in this field since its inception and have instructed hundreds of physicians in the use of this technology. Many in the field routinely asked if a book or atlas with ready instruction and helpful hints was available. Our book is intended to fill this void. We have aimed specifically to stay away from reference recitals. Our goal instead, was to create an easy-to-use book, offering technical instruction, helpful hints and an atlas all at the same time. Additionally, we have included basic staging principles, essential to the physician who embarks on mediastinal biopsy and cancer staging.

We hope you will find this book stimulating and helpful in your practice and management of your patients.

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Endobronchial Ultrasound

An Atlas and Practical Guide

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2009, VI, 161 p. 145 illus., 80 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-0-387-09436-6