

Preface

As we enter the twenty-first century, the field of endocrine surgery is poised for greatness. Although we must never forget that the fundamental principles of surgery were passed down to us from the pioneers of endocrine surgery, including such legends as Billroth, Halsted, Cushing, and the Mayo brothers, endocrine surgery is evolving continuously, in particular over the last several decades. In addition to technological advances, tremendous strides have been made in our understanding of the endocrine system, leading to improved diagnosis and treatment of various endocrine disorders. Genetic understanding of disease basis permits earlier diagnosis and curative treatment of hereditary thyroid cancer in infancy before clinical presentation. Localizing techniques such as radioisotope scanning and venous sampling allow accurate localization of endocrine tumors, while positron emission tomography and radioisotope scintigraphy provide a reliable method for diagnosis and surveillance as well as treatment of endocrine malignancy. Improved localization and intraoperative parathyroid hormone monitoring have led to an evolution in the treatment of hyperparathyroidism. In addition, the advent of laparoscopic surgery permits increased application of minimally invasive techniques in the field of endocrine surgery. Various intraoperative monitoring such as neuromonitoring potentially enhances the safety of endocrine surgical procedures.

In this setting, we present to you *Endocrine Surgery*, a book which encompasses these advances in endocrine surgery with incorporation of fundamental basic concepts and principles. The editors are active endocrine surgeons practicing in three different continents – Asia, North America, and Europe. The editors communicated by Skype conference calling and utilized Google documents so that the concept, design, and organization of the book occurred in real time. In a sign of the times, the quality of the book has been enhanced by an expert list of contributors to whom we are extremely grateful for their participation. We also believe that the collective worldwide experience from our international contributors should facilitate current understanding of the state-of-the-art practice of endocrine surgery in managing various endocrine surgical problems. We hope that you find this book informative and useful as we strive to perfect the care of our endocrine surgery patients throughout the world.

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