
Preface

Developments in telepathology are progressing at a great speed. As a consequence, there is a need for a broad overview of the field. This first ever book on telepathology 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 pathologists, surgeons, nurses and allied health professionals, and computer scientists.

In a very short time, driven by technical developments, the field of telepathology has become too extensive to be covered by only a small number of experts. Therefore, this Telepathology book has been written with chapter contributions from a host of renowned international authorities in telepathology (see the Table of Contents and the List of Contributors). This ensures that the subject matter focusing on recent advances in telepathology 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 that this Telepathology book 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 telepathology are not fully covered, such as legal and reimbursement policies. The editors invite readers, clinicians, and students to forward their valuable comments and feedback to further improve and expand future editions of this Telepathology book.

Books on theoretical and technical aspects inevitably use technical jargon, and this book is no exception. Although jargon is minimized, it cannot be eliminated without retreating to a more superficial level of coverage. The reader's understanding of the jargon

will vary based on their backgrounds, 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.

This Telepathology book 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 figure 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 consists of 16 chapters and begins with a brief introductory chapter explaining the basic concepts that are mainstay to telepathology, and subsequent chapters are built upon those foundations. Within each chapter, the goal is to provide a comprehensive overview of the topic. The final chapter covers future directions of telepathology.

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

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