

## Preface

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The impetus for the writing of this book came largely from the many students and residents in pathology who spent time on the perinatal autopsy service and frequently asked us what reference they could turn to for a review of normal fetal histology.

The inspiration for this book is one of the few references that does exist, although out of print, the volume entitled *Histology of the Fetus and Newborn* by Dr. Valdes-Dapena, published in 1979. This reference served as the model for ours, and we constantly turned to it for verification and help in deciding what to include and what not to include. We hope the quality of our volume is comparable to the standards set by Dr. Valdes-Dapena.

The main goal for us was to provide an atlas of fetal and neonatal histology for use by pathology trainees and attending pathologists who have to deal with fetal tissues at autopsy. However, any scientist who might be examining fetal tissues outside of routine pathology might also find this a useful volume. Since there are dramatic changes in many of the fetal tissues over gestation, it is important for the examiner to understand normal development and histology, especially when attempting to decide if a particular finding is pathologic. We have attempted to describe the

histology of each organ in detail with particular emphasis on the changes throughout the fetal period. An embryology section is included with each chapter to briefly review the important developmental changes as they apply to the appearance of the tissues. The embryology sections are not intended to be a comprehensive review of the subject since the main goal of our book is to highlight the histology.

All the images in this book are obtained from fetal tissues that were formalin fixed and paraffin embedded, unless otherwise stated. Fetal dates were generally obtained by clinical gestational age estimates (menstrual age) and corroborated by fetal morphologic measurements. Since embryologists and embryology texts frequently refer to postfertilization dates, dates prior to 12 weeks are generally postfertilization. The magnifications listed after each image represent the objective power used when taking the photomicrograph. No attempt to calculate exact magnification is made, since most pathologists can relate to objective power more easily.

We hope this book will teach others as much as we have learned in the process of writing it, and inspire the next generation of scientists interested in the microscopic anatomy of fetal tissue

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