
Preface

We are very pleased to present our contribution to the developing field of rural surgery.

Rural surgery requires the surgeon to always be prepared for a procedure or an intervention that he or she might not have done or seen either frequently or recently – this is the best definition of the challenge facing rural surgery. It does summarize well what the challenges of daily work for rural surgeons can be. These challenges become more complex due to the fact that expert support or advice and the technology requirements that often accompany them are frequently far away or not available.

With this textbook on rural surgery we want to provide up-to-date information for senior as well as junior surgeons working in nonmetropolitan hospitals around the world. The book is a guide to get through the challenges of starting a surgical practice in a rural environment and can provide the scientific background for the routine work of the experienced rural surgeon. The book also aims to assist surgeons who provide locum services and may not always be used to working alone in a new environment.

We hope that this book will become a valuable companion for surgeons working in the field of rural surgery around the world.

The editors started to work on this project in 2007 when David Borgstrom came to present at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Provincial Surgeons of Australia (PSA) in Whyalla (sp) (South Australia). Matthias Wichmann, Guy Maddern, and David Borgstrom agreed to edit a textbook on rural surgery based on the recent experience of one of the Australian editors (MW) who at that time was just beginning to adjust to the challenge and rewards of a rural surgical practice after moving to Australia from Germany. Nadine R. Caron soon joined the editorial team and we started to collect contributing authors around the world.

We are very grateful to all the contributing authors for their input into this textbook. Their expertise and knowledge will help to make rural surgeons more comfortable with difficult situations and treatment decisions in our daily practice and serve as a resource for the future rural surgeons who will pursue this rewarding career.

The editors would also like to express their gratitude to the team of the Springer-Verlag in Germany. From the start the publisher was very supportive of the idea to edit a book on rural surgery. We are especially thankful to Mrs. Stephanie Benko and Mrs. Rosemarie Unger and Mrs. Dakshinamoorthy Mahalakshmi for their help and assistance.

We trust that you will enjoy this book and that it will be a valuable support for your work in rural surgery.

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Rural Surgery

Challenges and Solutions for the Rural Surgeon

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