Preface

In preparing this volume, my aim has been to organize and set down, as concisely as possible, what may be considered the basic facts concerning the diagnosis and treatment of dysphagia. A principal focus is how to analyze the symptom of dysphagia, which is of the utmost importance and forms the basis for selection of any further steps in evaluation. In the clinical work-up, radiology is crucial. This was the topic of the book *Radiology of the Pharynx and Esophagus*, published by Springer in 2004. The continued rapid advances in dysphagology in the intervening period have prompted me to revise and expand that book. Seventeen chapters have been updated and refreshed, while 19 are completely new and place dysphagia in an even broader and deeper context. Particularly the consequences like malnutrition and dehydration are thoroughly described.

The current book therefore contains detailed information on anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, pathology and clinical background as well as different aspects of nutrition and malnutrition. It bridges the gap between basic anatomy and physiology and the clinical management of patients with dysphagia.

The authors of the individual chapters are experts in their fields and most of them are engaged in hands-on practical work with patients.

The skilful assistance provided by Ms. Eva Prahl has been invaluable in bringing together all the loose ends to create what I hope will be a well-received volume.

I also wish to thank all the contributors to the volume and, particularly, Ms. Corinna Schaefer and Ms. Daniela Brandt of the publisher's staff. Their enthusiasm and skilful guidance have been invaluable.

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