
Preface

Over the past decade there has been an impressive evolution in the field of esophageal surgery. Significant advancements in diagnostics and technical refinements of complex minimally invasive procedures have indeed driven this surgical specialty to high levels of excellence. The concept of a multidisciplinary approach to esophageal disease has now been accepted by most physicians, and with the tremendous increase in the incidence of esophageal adenocarcinoma, the need for a more focused postgraduate training in foregut surgery has emerged.

In November 2011, an international meeting entitled “Innovation in Esophageal Surgery” was organized in Milan to celebrate the 10th year of activity of the Center for Esophageal Disease at IRCCS Policlinico San Donato, one of the main teaching hospitals of the University of Milan Medical School. This was also a great occasion to celebrate the 80th birthday of Professor Alberto Peracchia, my “master” of surgery, a true pioneer and innovator in esophageal surgery when this discipline was still neglected by many. He has been a unique teacher and mentor, a superb surgeon, a great innovator, and a truly international leader.

I was able to gather in San Donato a distinguished faculty from 13 countries to share science and experience with centers of excellence worldwide. I am very grateful to all speakers who accepted to participate in this unique event and to those who agreed to contribute to this volume. I am deeply indebted to Tom DeMeester, unique mentor, pioneer, great innovator, and leader in esophagology. He has been very influential in my surgical career, a true icon and a great source of inspiration. I am also very grateful to Giuseppe Rotelli, President of the Gruppo San Donato, who trusted me since the beginning of my activity at Policlinico San Donato and honored me with his friendship and encouragement. His continuous support has contributed so much to the quality of care delivered by my team to all patients referred to the Center for Esophageal Disease.

This book introduces the general and the thoracic surgeon to the latest developments in esophageal surgery. In each chapter the reader will find an updated state-of-the-art review of innovative methods and techniques which have had a significant impact on clinical practice over the past decade. Despite the tremendous pressure to reduce cost of health care and despite resistance to change by part of the medical and surgical community, innovation remains a powerful engine for human progress. I hope that *Innovation in Esophageal Surgery* will be highly informative for both the novice and the expert surgeon wishing to enter the intriguing arena of esophageal surgery.

Luigi Bonavina



<http://www.springer.com/978-88-470-2468-7>

Innovation in Esophageal Surgery

Bonavina, L. (Ed.)

2012, XIV, 136 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-88-470-2468-7