
Preface

The inception for this book dates back several years after both of us heard numerous times from participants in our courses the request for a comprehensive text covering all aspects of Interventional Pulmonology (IP) and providing both a pathophysiologic background as well as illustrated and clear instructions on how procedures ought to be performed. A review at that time confirmed that shorter texts and review articles were available, but a comprehensive textbook for the whole field was indeed missing.

As with any growing specialty in medicine, the amount of information and knowledge continues to grow. A few years ago, IP would have been thought of as mainly being applicable to patients with malignant airway obstruction – now the interventional pulmonologist is a central member of the team in the staging and management of lung cancer, management of obstructive airway diseases, pleural disorders and other lung diseases. The many chapters in this book reflect this trend and reality. The depth of the material reflects how Interventional Pulmonology is not just about how to do something but also when and why (or why not) to intervene.

This work would not have been possible without the gracious support from the many authors representing multiple subspecialties, highlighting the multidisciplinary nature of the field. We are clearly indebted for their willingness to share their knowledge and contribute to the education of the ones eager to learn. Also, this book would not have been possible without the help of our editors Kevin Wright and Portia Levasseur from Springer. Sarah Rego kept everybody on track and ensured that we all stayed in the allotted time frame and our thanks to her as well.

We hope you enjoy the book and that it proves a helpful companion in your medical practice.

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