

Preface

The basic sciences are the essence of anesthesiology. Therefore, the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA) includes an examination on the basic sciences for the ABA certification. The lack of a specific book dedicated to the basic sciences in anesthesiology has driven us to compose this book. We tried our best to follow the syllabus of the ABA basic sciences examination in order to create an accurate resource for study. The motto of this book is to follow Alexander Pope's advice in 1709: "A little learning is a dangerous thing; drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring: there shallow drougths intoxicate the brain, and drinking largely sobers us again." This message is still relevant today in the field of anesthesiology.

The content of each chapter of the book is presented in a comprehensive manner and is conducive for

successful study. Every chapter highlights key topics and includes questions testing comprehension of the respective subject matter. Moreover, suggested references are included for further research in the basic sciences.

We would like to thank our colleagues for their hard work and dedication in writing the book. In addition, we would like to thank Ms. Maureen K. Pierce and Joanna Renwick from Springer International Publishing for their perseverance during the process.

At the end, we hope this book will be helpful in preparing for the ABA basic science examination as well as serve as a tool for practicing anesthesiologists who would like to refresh their knowledge in basic sciences.

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