

Foreword

I wish to congratulate Drs. Whitaker and Hochschuler on this exciting new book, *The Pocket Spine*. In a nicely compact format, these authors have provided generous amounts of information regarding the presentation, evaluation, and nonoperative and operative treatment of various common spinal conditions. It is divided into 11 chapters that can be referenced quickly, with information that is valuable to trainees as well as young practitioners.

The field of spine medicine has grown tremendously over the last decade, and sometimes lost in this explosion of new technologies has been the fact that the majority of conditions that are evaluated and treated by spine physicians have remained relatively constant. Thus it is not unusual for trainees in either orthopedic surgery and/or neurosurgical residency and fellowship programs to have difficulty mastering basic concepts and information while concentrating on higher levels of sophisticated diagnostic and surgical interventions. This concise but well-illustrated textbook will provide immediate access to important basic and even somewhat advanced concepts for quick and repetitive learning. In this respect, this book fills an important need in the exploding field of spine technologies.

Highlights of the textbook include outstanding classic illustrations, as well as charts and tables for reference to important data fields. This is especially evident in the early chapters on medical management and head and spine trauma. A chapter on the pediatric spine is worth noting for its thorough description of pediatric spinal deformities in an understandable level.

Again, I commend Drs. Whitaker and Hochschuler and the colleagues who contributed to this exciting new handbook on their contribution to spine literature. It will surely become a standard in the laboratory coat pockets of a multitude of medical students, residents, fellows, young practitioners, and other spinal allied health professionals. Hence the quite appropriate title, *The Pocket Spine*, from which all will benefit.

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