



Foreword

The art and science of scoliosis treatment has made significant strides in recent years. Our improved comprehension of the pathomechanics and pathophysiology of scoliosis, including recognition of the significance of the sagittal profile, has led to new therapeutic efforts in scoliosis surgery. Fortunately, these efforts have been facilitated by the development of improved instrumentation systems and the implementation of new surgical techniques. Today there are tools for correction at our disposal that we could not have even imagined 10 years ago.

At present, however, the full impact of these spectacular developments in scoliosis surgery has not been fully realized, except in a few highly specialized surgical centers. It was therefore logical and vital to publish a book on the modern aspects of anterior scoliosis surgery to impart knowledge about these advances to a much broader audience. *Modern Anterior Scoliosis Surgery* has been written to address this need for comprehensive, clinical information aimed at a broad audience of professionals. It is written by the leading experts in the field and has been masterfully edited by Lawrence Lenke and Randal Betz, who are renowned for their expertise in scoliosis. It has been my pleasure to participate with them in putting this major volume together. We hope it will become the definitive reference in the field and a vital aid to all of those involved in the day-to-day care of scoliosis patients. Armed with this information about diagnostic and treatment options, spine surgeons will be able to select the best approach with the most satisfactory results for both the patient and the surgeon. By learning to recognize and assess the pathogenesis and progression of the scoliosis, surgeons should be able to apply the appropriate surgical techniques at an early stage. Identifying the correct treatment for severe curves is also critical, since these deformities are encountered frequently in practice and carry a significantly higher neurologic risk.

Modern Anterior Scoliosis Surgery provides thorough coverage of the surgical possibilities on a broad range of topics, beginning with basic considerations and extending through operative procedures, other pathologic conditions, and new frontiers. The book invites comparison of all currently available anterior techniques and instrumentation options for the treatment of scoliosis without promoting one system or approach exclusively. Excellent content depth is provided by the contributors, all highly skilled

surgeons who have created a textured, academic discourse on their experiences, techniques, and results.

Essential to an understanding of this wide-ranging discussion of anterior treatment of scoliosis is the consistent use of a versatile and reliable classification system of curve patterns that adequately appreciates the sagittal profile. It is to be hoped that the sound, accurate Lenke classification system presented in this book will find a broad circulation to facilitate future discussions.

Experienced scoliosis surgeons will benefit from the detailed techniques described and illustrated here; they can review their own surgical approaches and adapt them to the newly developed ones for the benefit of the patient. This book will also prove an invaluable educational tool to young surgeons seeking to provide their patients with the best care possible. If this book serves to assist surgeons in avoiding the common failures that occur in scoliosis surgery and thus improves the overall results for their patients, the concept and objectives of *Modern Anterior Scoliosis Surgery* will have been fulfilled admirably.

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