



Preface

Modern Anterior Scoliosis Surgery (MASS) developed as a natural consequence of our involvement in the Harms Anterior Scoliosis Study Group. Founded by Professor Juergen Harms and led by Randy Betz, MD, this small group of dedicated surgeons came together to share their special interest in anterior approaches to scoliosis surgery. Over time, the group has grown as other surgeons and research nurses have joined, helping to advance and coordinate the multiple clinical studies investigated by its members. The output from this group has been impressive, as evidenced by the numerous publications and presentations at national and international scoliosis meetings. It became evident in the late 1990s that a textbook focusing on anterior techniques for scoliosis surgery would be the ideal way to represent the group's efforts and to bring together in one place the substantial body of work that they have contributed. This book represents the culmination of these efforts and a marriage of the research and clinical findings that have evolved. The title MASS is a both a tribute to the group and to the topic.

Our goal is a complete, comprehensive, and “modern” source of all the information currently available on anterior scoliosis surgery, written by the leading experts in the field. The book is divided into five parts to cover the full spectrum of care, ranging from basic considerations to surgical approaches and operative procedures, to implant systems and future directions. The book begins with detailed chapters on spinal biomechanics, curve classification, radiographic scoring, patient medical considerations, and complications. Next the clinical applications are addressed in sections on surgical approaches and operative procedures, with attention given to instrumentation systems and techniques and to minimally invasive approaches. A section on treatment of other pathologic conditions, such as infantile and juvenile scoliosis, cerebral palsy, spinal muscular atrophy, and adult scoliosis, is also included. The book concludes with a look at new frontiers and some of the exciting developments that are on the horizon.

Modern Anterior Scoliosis Surgery was written for anyone who treats or coordinates the care of scoliosis patients. This includes a broad range of experts: practicing surgeons, spinal surgery fellows, orthopedic and neurosurgery residents, nurses, and therapists. All of these team members will benefit from the comprehensive clinical information within these pages. We hope that this book will provide them with a solid foundation of knowledge and the tools they need to provide their patients with the best care possible.

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