

Foreword

Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation

Is there a need for another nephrology text? Certainly a number of excellent textbooks are available for nephrologists to look up in-depth information on the various topics in the field. The current treatise pursues a different purpose and incorporates a novel approach pioneered by Dustri-Verlag. The ring binder format allows removal of chapters to be carried to rounds or conferences, and replacement of individual chapters as the field progresses in one, but not necessarily all other topics covered by the book. This obviates the need to purchase every two to three years an entire new set of textbooks and allows ongoing and timely updating of individual topics as required. It was the goal of the editors to create a clinically oriented text providing the reader with concise, up-to-date information without lengthy historical perspectives and background information. The development of a CD should later complement this treatise by allowing more in-depth listings of detailed references, presentation of charts, graphs, photomicrographs, x-rays, etc. The current two volumes represent a well rounded first

edition, which was made possible by the diligent and devoted input from the co-editors, Drs. B. Peter Sawaya, Mohamed H. Sayegh, and Raymond M. Hakim, with enormous help from Dr. Nuhad Ismail. The overall quality of this treatise was accomplished through excellent contributions of the authors of the individual chapters. The authors were recruited from around the world and the editors would like to extend their deepest gratitude to these fine academicians for their great work. We are looking forward to an ongoing collaboration in the continued updating process of the text. This lively process of continuous updating will hopefully be enhanced by input from the readers, which is solicited and welcomed by all section editors and the chief editor. Finally, we would be remiss if we did not express our thanks to Jörg Feistle of Dustri-Verlag, who has been a consistent and pleasant force essential to the creation of this work. Looking forward to an enjoyable and successful ongoing documentation of the clinical knowledge base and progress in the field of nephrology, dialysis and transplantation.

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