

SECOND EDITION

CLINICAL SURGERY



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Clinical Surgery

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Preface

Clinical Surgery in its new edition is much more than a facelift. It is the outcome of a major collective effort based on regular meetings of the five editors with the publishers at which format, content and layout were discussed. Admittedly, completion of the second edition has taken longer than anticipated, but the delay has been worthwhile. Although the basic structure of the first edition has been retained, the rewrites, alterations and new material have been based on feedback from our readers specially commissioned by our publishers before work on the second edition commenced in earnest. The needs and comments expressed by students and house officers who took part in the feedback on each and every chapter (favourable or otherwise) were kept firmly in mind by the authors and editors during the redrafting process. Consequently, the editors are confident that all defects and criticisms have been met and the second edition has no serious shortcomings.

In addition to this we have introduced some new features, which we regard as important in the continuous acquisition of medical and surgical knowledge that is based on reading, clinical observation and practice. Perhaps the most relevant of these are the *Must know* (core knowledge information), *Must do* (necessary clinical and humanistic skills) appropriate to each chapter. These provide evidence to the reader of landmark achievements of knowledge and goals in the learning process. When indicated, we have included references to evidence-based medical practice but shied away from any extensive bibliography.

New material, previously not covered or dealt with in too superficial a manner in the first edition has been added or enhanced without a material increase in the size of the book. In achieving this, we have not sacrificed any of the good features of the book including the *At A Glance* boxes,

which have been so popular as *aides-mémoire* with the medical undergraduates in particular.

We trust the second edition of *Clinical Surgery*, like its predecessor, proves to be useful to students, house officers and senior house officers, that it will incite them to consider a career in surgery, but if not, that they benefit as doctors from reading the book. If the second edition achieves the last, we as editors would be well pleased with the outcome of our work.

We would like to thank Alice Emmott, Senior Production Editor, for her forbearance and tact and the entire team at Blackwell Publishing. Also, the authors, you all did a magnificent and expeditious job.

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