

## Preface

The adoption of new official nomenclature by the “Federative Committee on Anatomical Terminology” (FCAT) has made a complete revision of the *Pocket Atlas of Human Anatomy* necessary. In its latest edition, the *Terminologia Anatomica* has incorporated results from more recent studies, mostly from research on the urogenital and central nervous systems. This has greatly expanded the total number of terms.

A number of these findings are derived from experiments on animals. The FCAT has added such findings to the *Terminologia Anatomica* without noting their origins in animal experimentation.

Experience has shown, however, that such findings and their interpretation can initially be applied to human beings only with the greatest caution. Relevant text passages thus alert the reader again to the uncertainty of such terms.

As we had already observed while writing earlier editions of this work, newly added terms have not been annotated by the FCAT. Attempts at obtaining more information from the committee were fruitless, with the result that certain terms remain without further explanation. These are listed in the “Notes” on page 474.

In a welcome revision, the commission has now added an official terminology to the Latin terminology. This simplifies communication between speakers of various languages and makes it more precise. Efforts by the FCAT to establish official definitions of terms that until now have been controversial (e.g., fascia) are equally welcome.

The customary Anglophone numbering of cranial nerves with roman numerals and of spinal nerves, vertebrae, and spinal segments with arabic numerals has been adopted. Otherwise, numbering schemes follow *Terminologia Anatomica*.

As in previous editions, colleagues and students offered comments and suggestions, which for the most part have been incorporated. I would like to thank all of them for their efforts, in particular Dr. C. Walther, for his dedication and perseverance in making informed and knowledgeable suggestions. Because of the wish expressed by students to have the “General Terminology” at the front of the book, I have placed that section at the beginning.

Professor Gerhard Spitzer was responsible once again, as in all previous editions, for designing the illustrations. With characteristic mastery he revised existing drawings, added new ones, and ensured their seamless incorporation into the sequence of illustrations. I owe him my deepest gratitude for his exacting collaborative efforts.

I would like to thank Georg Thieme Verlag and its employees, especially, Ms. Profitlich, Ms. Mauch, and Mr. Zepf, for their patience and understanding and for the harmonious collaboration that went into creating this edition.

Translation of the present edition into English was performed by Stephanie Kramer, who did so with perseverance and skill. My sincere thanks to her and to Gabriele Kuhn for her careful assistance during the completion of this edition.

Wolfgang Dauber