

Preface

The first edition of *Ear, Nose, and Throat Diseases* was written by Professors Walter Becker (1920–1990), Hans Heinz Naumann (1919–2001), and Carl R. Pfaltz (1922–2003) and published in 1988. Since then, this book has presented the essential knowledge of otolaryngology and head and neck surgery in a concise and highly accessible format. It also provided advanced information to facilitate a better understanding of the diagnostic and therapeutic issues and challenges of the specialty. The scope and didactic presentation of its content made this book attractive to medical students, specialist trainees, residents, interested practitioners, and specialists, both as a textbook and reference source.

The third English edition was translated into Polish, Russian, Greek, and Chinese. Because of this continued and ever-growing success, we wanted to release a new edition of *Ear, Nose, and Throat Diseases: With Head and Neck Surgery*. We are grateful to Thieme Publishers for the opportunity to prepare this new edition.

We have been sensitive to the fact that this book has been influential on an international scale, and we have strived to maintain this status, recognizing that the range of presenting conditions and their management will vary between various countries.

As a surgical specialty, otolaryngology–head and neck surgery has undergone rapid and progressive development in diagnosis and treatment with increasing understanding of pathophysiologic principles. It was, therefore, necessary to restructure some chapters completely and to revise and update the remaining ones to bring the new edition up to the current standard of scientific and technical knowledge and

practice in this specialty. We added a section on swallowing and included further contributions from Prof. Heidi Olze and Prof. Birgit Mazurek from the Charité.

The figures supplementing the text have received particular attention, as they are significant and critical to understanding the text. Numerous drawings have been prepared new or updated where necessary. Our medical illustrator, Katja Dalkowski, MD, has made a substantial contribution to the visual appearance of the book, and we would like to express our gratitude for her invaluable assistance and commitment to the project. For content-related and didactic reasons, we have also kept some outstanding historical illustrations.

Mr Stephan Konnry of Thieme Publishers contributed significantly to the completion of the book with his energy. We owe him our gratitude for this support. We are also grateful to the patients who allowed us to publish photographs of their sometimes serious diseases for the purpose of medical education. Finally, we would like to thank the Institute of Medical Development and Further Education Berlin e.V. for its cooperation and support in the preparation of the new edition.

We hope that this new edition will continue to be a valuable practical guide for its readers—the students of medicine and dental medicine, as well as physicians and surgeons who are either in training or practicing as established specialists.

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