

Preface

During the preparation of this, the 10th edition of the *Handbook of Neurosurgery*, it dawned on me that the origins and the perpetuation of this book are probably antithetical to that of the majority of medical books. Instead of creating a book in an effort to help take care of patients, this book arose as a result of taking care of patients. It began as a collection of notes that I kept as my needs emerged, first as a resident, and later as a practicing neurosurgeon. I added to it during my residency as we presented weekly grand rounds on patients whom we were treating in the OR, the wards, and the ICU. Later, in my practice, when I encountered a condition or a treatment that I had to research, I included the results of that research in the book for future reference. The book grew organically, instead of arising from a preplanned blueprint. I feel that this has probably been part of the book's success, as well as a source of some of the unevenness of coverage, for which I gradually make amends. While it may not have occurred to me that this was likely a different genesis than most books, I have always said that my patients appear on all the pages of this book. And it is to them that I am eternally grateful.