

We have repeatedly been told by readers that up-to-datedness is a special feature that makes this book very valuable. We have strived to remain current by providing new information from the recent literature, some from 2014, the current year. We have removed the references from the text and aggregated the most useful review articles in our lists of suggested readings.

We are now into the digital age, and so the text will be available online to those who own the print version. Such access gives the reader the ability to search across the entire text, bookmark passages, add personal notes, use PubMed to view references, and exploit many other exciting features. In addition, also available online are case studies developed by one of us (VK) in collaboration with Herb Hagler, PhD, and Nancy Schneider, MD, PhD, at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. The cases are designed to enhance and reinforce learning

by challenging students to apply their knowledge to solve clinical cases. To assist in the classroom, we have also made the images available for instructors on the Evolve website. Instructors may register at <https://evolve.elsevier.com/> to gain access to the images for teaching purposes.

All three of us have reviewed, critiqued, and edited each chapter to ensure the uniformity of style and flow that have been the hallmarks of the book. Together, we hope that we have succeeded in equipping the readers with the scientific basis for the practice of medicine and in whetting their appetite for learning beyond what can be offered in any textbook.

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