PREFACE

The *Atlas of Gynecologic Surgery* has a long and respected history, going back to its first German edition in 1960. Since that time, gynecology as a science and the repertory of gynecologic operations have changed and developed in many significant ways. The task of consolidating this constantly growing knowledge and transforming it, with the application of a multiplying number of techniques, into the best possible operative treatment for patients is becoming more and more challenging for physicians.

The principal goal of the present work was and is a structured presentation of both the scientist's and the craftsman's view of the various abdominal, vaginal, endoscopic and senologic operations in our field, a presentation that is lucid and placed in the right context.

This challenge, as well as the many changes and paradigm shifts occurring in the years since the last reworking of the English edition in 1997, called for a far-reaching revision of design and content. Thus, all aspects of this current edition have been changed and renewed.

The introductory chapters are followed by a topographical organization into sections treating the adnexa, uterus, vulva/vagina, and pelvic floor. There, where useful, a distinction is made between abdominal (open), vaginal, and endoscopic approaches. The chapters on surgical techniques begin with the simpler operations and move on to the more difficult techniques. At the same time, the Operation Navigator, newly developed especially for this book, facilitates a convenient search from the disease to the indication to the operation of choice (see the graphic on p. VI).

The *Atlas of Gynecologic Surgery* is known all over the world as a work rich in tradition that lays out the entire field of operative gynecology in detail and at the highest level. The collection of still-applicable illustrations from earlier editions and more than 500 new drawings contribute to the new composition of a work of excellent esthetic and didactic quality. The conceptual reworking and the new textual and graphic configuration of the work matured for almost a decade. Even until shortly before the book went to press, drawings were still being updated and relevant innovations were worked into the appropriate chapters.

For the English edition, two international editors have been invited. Their collaboration allows for a truly international perspective of current and classical gynecology.

The result is a modern surgical authority with more than 1100 illustrations that gives a comprehensive and current picture of operative gynecology and obstetrics. We are convinced that this presentation will provide the reader with great pleasure and visual enjoyment.

The enormous challenge of bringing out this international work in rejuvenated form while retaining the tried and trusted core was met thanks to the intense joint involvement of the publisher, authors, and graphic artists.

In the production of this atlas we have been helped by many and many need to be thanked.

We would first like to thank Thieme Publishers for their courage to take on the re-edition of such an outstanding work both of science and of art. The tremendous success of the Atlas' new edition in the German-speaking countries has already rewarded this initiative and the confidence put into traditional drawings in the context of surgical teaching.

We would also like to thank our medical artist, Reinhold Henkel, for over 10 years of close and highly creative collaboration. Reinhold Henkel passed away this year, and the world of medical art has lost an exceptional artist.

Countless hours of exciting work went into this Atlas. Combined with our obligations as directors of large university departments, we devote a tremendous amount of our time into what we love as gynecologic surgeons: creating a modern and lasting school of benign and gynecologic surgery.

It is more than appropriate at this point to appreciate the support of both of our families over the years. With a special thanks to Gabriele, Markus, and Christian, as well as Graziella, Nicholas, and Charlotte, we dedicate this book to our families and to our patients.

Diethelm Wallwiener, Tübingen
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