Preface

The genesis of this text involved the coming together of friends with a shared passion for reconstructive surgery and education. We recognized that there was a knowledge gap for reconstructive surgery with few resources focusing exclusively and comprehensively on this field. Our goal was to create a volume that fills this gap—broad enough to serve as a comprehensive reference yet compact enough to travel easily in a book bag or backpack. We envisioned a practical guide that trainees and seasoned surgeons alike could reach for in the clinic, the operating room, or during late-night call.

To achieve this, we invited leading experts from across the full spectrum of reconstructive surgery to contribute. All our authors are internationally recognized surgeons and researchers, including many past Buncke Lecturers and Godina Traveling Fellows of the American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, and prominent leaders within the specialty of plastic surgery. Their chapters distill decades of accumulated experience into pertinent anatomic knowledge, thoughtfully selected case examples, insightful pearls and pitfalls, and evidence-based treatment algorithms. Together, these contributions provide an up-to-date, cohesive exploration of head and neck reconstruction, breast reconstruction, upper and lower extremity reconstruction, trunk and pelvis reconstruction, and the surgical management of lymphedema. We trust that this book will not only be foundational for the surgeon in training but also serve as a frequent reference for the advanced surgeon.

We hope this book serves not only as a practical manual but as a source of inspiration—a reminder of the creativity, technical excellence, and collaborative spirit that define reconstructive surgery to those who practice it. It reflects not only the expertise of its esteemed contributors but also our collective commitment to advancing patient care and educating the next generation of reconstructive surgeons. Our deepest appreciation and admiration go out to the chapter authors. To assemble such an esteemed group of surgeons was ambitious bordering on audacious, but the result is a collection that we believe defines the current state of the art and reflects the camaraderie and mutual support that runs strongly within our field.

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