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Preface

On being approached by the publisher, Thieme, to write a second edition of *Neurosurgery Case Review: Questions and Answers*, we were very surprised and excited. After being told that the first edition was one of their bestsellers among the neurosurgery textbooks, we feel greatly rewarded to have had such an impact on the contribution toward training of future neurosurgeons as well as recent graduates taking the board. Little did we know about the challenges that this project reserved for us as we took on the arduous task.

It has been a special challenge to coordinate the writings, updates, and revisions of the multiple chapters that make the text as well as the logistical organization of the multiple editors and section editors. Each one of us having a busy practice at sometimes opposite ends of the globe, we have more than once had to step back to the drawing board and try to reorganize the project before moving forward.

Although it may seem to the reader that a lot of material is repeated and therefore there is much less work in the creation of a second edition—this is not the case at all. We were surprised to find that we would have to review every single chapter and go through the laborious decision of resolving whether or not to keep or discard a chapter and also determine which topics need to be added. In order to do that, one has to have a thorough understanding of not only the depths, but the breadth of the field of neurosurgery. Currently, with specializations and sub-specializations in neurosurgery, we are more and more focused on a particular aspect of the field and we lose perception and vision about the global picture in neurosurgery. This is especially true for us, after having practiced neurosurgery for more than a decade now.

We have tried to capture the essence of the first edition; presenting a set of cases that present special challenges to the aspiring neurosurgeon and current practitioner. We would like to enrich their breadth of practice. To do so we have recruited more editors and authors to contribute new cases with more contemporary approaches to management. Conditions such as stroke, requiring endovascular treatment, are now required

to be addressed by the neurosurgeons both at a didactic and a practical standpoint. Furthermore, there have been global advances in general neurosurgery, especially spine surgery, which we have also captured in this textbook. Neurosurgeons are now treating conditions such as scoliosis, sacroiliitis, and other ailments at the frontier of neurosurgery, as it overlaps with neurology, interventional radiology, orthopedic surgery, and pain management. We have covered aspects of the junction of these aforementioned disciplines via selected cases.

We have retained the spirit of the first edition, which includes focusing on the format of testing for the examinations of American Board Neurological Surgery and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada oral board examinations. In addition, we have also tried to increase our case numbers while eliminating superfluous cases. We have aimed to maintain the uniqueness of each case, showcasing distinct judgment. The art of practicing neurosurgery and individual authors' opinions are reflected through each particular case.

Now, with close to 100 contributors and authors from multiple countries and continents spanning the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia, we believe to have captured an excellent cross-section of neurosurgery as it is practiced today in the world, and more particularly with the North American standards.

All chapters in this book are based on actual cases encountered by the primary or senior authors during the scope of their practices, and so are the complications and challenges discussed in each case. Any resemblance with cases or questions presented in formal examinations (such as national board examinations or licensing examinations) or with cases discussed in organized review courses, is purely coincidental.

We hope you enjoy reading this text as much as we did preparing it.

Remi Nader, MD, CM, FRCSC, FACS, FAANS
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