Preface

We dedicate this text to Drs. Ernest E. Aegerter, a pathologist, and John A. Kirkpatrick Jr., a radiologist. They were among the principal founders of the field of skeletal pathology and radiology. During their time, their residents and colleagues knew them as great educators with a dedication and a passion for their work. Their textbook, Orthopedic Diseases, published initially in 1958 was among the first interdisciplinary works devoted to this field. Dr. Aegerter and Dr. Kirkpatrick illuminated many aspects of the field of radiology. Today, with the advent of new technologies, this field has grown to include not only diseases that affect the skeleton but also those that affect muscles, ligaments, tendons, and also the cartilaginous structures within joints.

With this text we intend to carry on Dr. Aegerter and Dr. Kirkpatrick’s tradition. We have recruited only well-known musculoskeletal radiologists and pathologists to participate in the writing of this book. Each author has been carefully selected for his expertise on the topic about which he’s been asked to contribute. Each author is known as an experienced and seasoned teacher. Each author has made a mark on the field.

With this talent we aim to lay the foundation of a useful and worthy teaching text. Our goal is to create a textbook that is at once readable by the radiology resident experiencing musculoskeletal radiology for the first time and thorough enough to be used by the practicing radiologist. We do not intend, however, to present an exhaustive reference work. We leave that task to other authors.

Instead we aim to provide a text that not only conveys important information about common and some less common musculoskeletal diseases, but more importantly provides a practical and systematic approach to analyzing diseases of bones, muscles, tendons, ligaments, and joints. We will provide with each category a means by which to conceptualize and analyze how pathology changes their appearance on medical images.

To meet these goals we have organized this text according to major categories of disease: trauma, infection, tumors and tumor-like conditions, metabolic diseases, endocrine disorders, dysplastic diseases, and arthritis. Where disease categories overlap, e.g., intraosseous tophus or brown tumor of bone, we discuss those points under each appropriate heading. Where there is debate as to the etiology of a disease, we also discuss these issues guiding the reader, to the best of our ability, to what current thinking has to say about that disease.

We also include a chapter that examines basic interventional techniques that apply to musculoskeletal imaging. Again, the idea is not to provide an exhaustive reference on any one technique, but instead to give the reader a primer on these techniques and their indications with guidance for finding further information.

Finally, in recognition of the importance of orthopedic procedures, we include information on the use, imaging appearance, and pathology affecting prostheses and fixation devices. This information is essential to the practice of modern radiology.

We hope that the reader will both enjoy reading this text and find the experience profitable to their knowledge base, both in fact and in concept. We look forward to receiving readers’ impressions, criticisms, and suggestions to improve this text in future editions.