Writing a book on such a broad topic as “Surgical English” is probably as bold as talking about “the history of the Roman Empire.” However, the broad scope of this book is offset by its simple approach and realistic goals. While it would be practically impossible to cover all the terminology used in the different surgical specialties, numerous topics and ways of doing things are relevant to all surgical specialties, and many instruments are common to most of them. Furthermore, surgeons all over the world face similar situations like writing a surgical protocol, visiting patients in the ward, or asking for informed consent. In this book, we will also provide advice about giving oral presentations at international congresses, writing articles, and moving around the operating room (or OR as it is invariably referred to in American hospitals).

Given the importance of the English language in medical science, surgeons all over the world should benefit from this book; it will be invaluable to those who wish to practice in a different country, do a fellowship in a different hospital, or simply spend a few weeks in a hospital with a language other than their own. Even if you travel to a country where English is not one of the main languages spoken on the street, it will enable you to communicate with the people around you in hospitals in most countries.

While much of this book is dedicated to helping you master the basics, it will also be useful if you already have an excellent command of the English language. Professional life in a foreign country brings up countless challenges to even the most proficient speakers. It will always be helpful to have a pocket book to remind you of some specific words or to help you deal with specific situations.

You can read this book straight through or jump from chapter to chapter, as each chapter covers an independent topic.

We hope that you enjoy this book and that you find it helpful in your life and career.

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