My aim was to write a short, clear, useful, and interesting guide to the findings in renal biopsy specimens. Particular parts of this aim were to show how a diagnosis can be reached, and what information taken from a specimen is clinically significant and helpful. This guide was designed for pathologists and trainee pathologists who look at the specimens, nephrologists and transplant surgeons and their trainees who take the specimens, medical students who will be the next generation to take and look at the specimens, and anyone else who may have contact with people with renal disorders, such as dialysis and transplant nurses and pharmacists.

There is a major difference from most other texts on renal biopsy pathology, which approach the subject by a consideration of each disease separately. In real life, the disease is not known before the biopsy. This text shows how the diagnosis can be made starting from simple information, the clinical indication for the biopsy, followed by interpretation of changes seen in the specimen.

Other features not found in many texts are practical tips on the differentiation between possible diagnoses, information about eponyms and the origins of words, a guide to pronunciation of names, and a mention of famous people who have had renal disorders.

I am grateful to the nephrologists and renal transplant surgeons who have provided most of the material for this book, and have given me help and advice over the years. I also thank colleagues in pathology and related disciplines. From my time in the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, I thank Dr D Adu, Mr A D Barnes, Ms L J Buist, Dr P Cockwell, Dr M T Drayson, Dr M A S Ferreira Baptista, Mr J Gregory, Dr S A Hulton, Dr G W Lipkin, Prof. C J Lote, Sir Jonathan Michael, Dr D V Milford, Dr F Raafat, Dr P Ramani, Mr A R Ready, Dr N T Richards, Prof. C O S Savage, Mrs J Sparke, Dr S J W Spencer, Dr C M Taylor, Prof. R H R White, and Mrs M C Williams.

In University College London and the Royal Free Hospital, London, United Kingdom, I thank Mr M Al-Akraa, Dr A Burns, Dr J O Connolly, Dr J M Cross, Prof. J Cunningham, Dr A Davenport, Dr P J Dupont, Mr B S Fernando, Mr O N Fernando, Dr J D Gillmore, Dr M A Harber, Dr K A Hillman, Dr S D Jayasena, Dr G L Jones, Prof. R F Kleta, Dr H J Lachmann, Ms J F Lewin, Ms R H H Lord, Dr M A Mansell, Prof. G H Neild, Dr J K Onwubalili,
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Prof. S H Powis, Ms R F Sim, Dr H A F Stephens, Dr P Sweny, Prof. R J Unwin, Mr P S Veitch, Dr D C Wheeler, and Dr R G Woolfson.

Above all, I thank Prof. D B Brewer, who inspired me to become a renal pathologist, and whose book *Renal Biopsy* (London: Edward Arnold, 1964 and 1973) is a superb guide to renal disease based on his experience.

The chance to prepare a second edition has allowed me to include material that has appeared since the first edition, especially on segmental sclerosing glomerular disorders, lupus nephritis, human immunodeficiency virus, hypertension, and renal transplantation. For this, I am grateful to Springer, and in particular to Melissa Ramondetta, Executive Editor, Clinical Medicine, and Dianne Wuori, Editorial Assistant.

London, July 2007

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Handbook of Renal Biopsy Pathology
Howie, A.J.
2008, XII, 337 p., Softcover