Since the early 1990s, with the introduction of laparoscopic techniques, laparoscopy has been a rapidly evolving area of urology. Even for more difficult advanced procedure, such as partial nephrectomy and radical prostatectomy, laparoscopy has become an option in hands of skilled surgeons. With the popularity of this technique, residents have been required to develop more skills in less time. However, issues of patient safety, costs, time constraints, and logistics have inevitably limited training opportunities for the novices in the operating room (OR). And most surgical textbooks just provide some standard methods of performing an operation or some surgical tricks and tips. It is more critical to teach residents how to gain enough surgical skills to reduce the complication during the initial stage. And with the increasing use of the laparoendoscopic single-site surgery (LESS) and robotic surgery in the urology, appropriate training programs also need to be established for mastery of these new technologies.

In pursuit of this goal, we sought to provide a special book which is very strong on details of training and will provide a benchmark, a line in the sand. This book takes some experts in laparoscopic urology together from across the world to share their ideas and experience of training, from basic stems in the dry lab through to hints and tricks for problem solving in complex scenarios. Many training models in this book can be referred, which will make the training course easier and more efficient. There is a desire among more and more residents to realize the importance of laparoscopic training and establish the individualized program with the help of this book.

We are grateful that all the contributors completed their assignment in a timely manner to ensure that this book is truly a state-of-the-art reference. I am also grateful for the time, effort, and creativity that each of the contributors put forth on behalf of the book. It has been a pleasure to work with the entire staff of Springer Publishers. Their guidance and expertise were invaluable. I would also like to thank my dear wife for her support related to this project.

Ying Hao Sun, M.D.
The Training Courses of Urological Laparoscopy
Ren, S.; Smith, A.D.; Yang, B. (Eds.)
2012, X, 197 p., Hardcover