Preface

The purpose of this book is to present some reoperative options for challenging problems that face the reconstructive hand surgeon after failed primary surgery. We have tried to do this as a one-volume book that is very concise and discusses some of the more common issues that hand surgeons may face in performing revision surgery. Even though there are several books dealing with hand surgery and other problems of the upper extremity, this book is unique in that it looks specifically at the problem of what to do when the original index procedure did not go as planned. We have included topics that involve the hand, wrist, forearm, and elbow. We have also included some sections in the book to look at some of the psychological and social factors that also go into the decision process whether to reoperate or not. My hope with this book is that it will give the busy hand and upper extremity surgeon easily accessible information relating to the evaluation, diagnosis, and possible surgical interventions for the diagnoses discussed.

Hand and upper extremity surgery has a diversity of different procedures to accomplish common goals. There are usually pros and cons to each type of procedure. Complications are a known risk of surgery and do occur despite the best efforts of the surgeon. The purpose of this book is to help hand surgeons manage some of these issues when they do arise in the patients that we all care for.

The chapters are tightly focused so that the important aspects to consider for reoperation can be quickly reviewed. There is also a component of the chapters that discusses how to avoid other pitfalls and to minimize as well as manage any complications that may occur with the reoperative procedures.

The authors that have graciously contributed their expertise to this book are all well known in the hand surgery world. The book has a straightforward table of contents and index which should allow the reader to easily locate the topic which they wish to review. We have purposely minimized the historical aspects and reviews of the literature in this book as these can be found in other hand surgery text books, but again have focused our core competency for this text to be reoperative considerations in those patients who have had previous surgery.

The book is filled with original art work to help describe and demonstrate how to perform some of these reoperative procedures. Our goal is that the artwork should be simple and straightforward but yet detailed enough to convey the important steps and aspects for the surgical intervention that it is outlining. It is my personal hope that in future editions of this book the number of topics will continue to expand and that the current topics will continue to be refined. This first edition represents the hard work of authors, editors, and publishers alike and will hopefully come to serve for the betterment of the patients under our care.

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Reoperative Hand Surgery
Duncan, S.F.M. (Ed.)
2012, XI, 443 p. 334 illus., 283 illus. in color., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-1-4614-2372-0