
Preface

The modern specialist in the treatment of surgical disease must be an expert in more than the traditional skills of cutting and sewing. Our patients are highly complex biochemical systems, with many active metabolic pathways, each with diverse requirements and varied methods of support. In preparing this work, we stepped back from an approach based on explicit diseases or anatomical approaches, and considered the metabolic needs of the patient as primary. We hope to have achieved our goal of creating a textbook that supplements the more traditional approaches and provides the basis in metabolism for an access to surgical knowledge and education.

We must acknowledge the classic text, with a title similar to ours by Dr. Francis Moore, now long out of print. Though we had no direct publishing connection to Dr. Moore's work, it was the inspiration for this book, as well as, of course, the inspiration for much of the modern thinking on the many metabolic aspects of surgical disease. Since that era, surgical science has advanced tremendously, as clinicians have learned about nutrition, then specific metabolic pathways, and mostly recently genetics-based science.

There have been many great contributors to our subject in the two generations since Dr. Moore's era. We would not attempt to be complete in our recognition of all the masters who have made important advances. But we would like to mention our former colleagues and mentors, Dr. Stanley Dudrick and Dr. John Kinney, who both advanced the field and had many intellectual progeny who also contributed.

This volume could not have been produced without the extensive efforts by our many contributors. We would also like to thank our academic chairs at Yale University School of Medicine, Dr. Robert Udelsman of the Department of Surgery and Dr. Roberta Hines of the Department of Anesthesiology. This work could not have been done without the fine efforts of Ms. Elise Paxson from the Springer publishing team.

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<http://www.springer.com/978-1-4939-1120-2>

Surgical Metabolism

The Metabolic Care of the Surgical Patient

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2014, XIII, 295 p. 24 illus., 14 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4939-1120-2