Since its introduction more than 15 years ago, urologic laparoscopy has matured significantly, emerging as a sound, viable alternative for many patients with renal, testicular, bladder, prostate and other urologic cancers. In recent times we have witnessed the emergence of the discipline of minimally invasive uro-oncology and advanced minimally invasive surgical techniques are now a strong viable partner to radical open surgery.

This is a “technique” book intended for urologists with prior experience in basic laparoscopy and uro-oncology. The focus is on practical, step-by-step details and subtleties. We have intentionally omitted any discussion of diagnoses, indications, instrumentation, or basics of laparoscopic access; there are already excellent textbooks dealing with these issues. The techniques we have described here are based on the aggregate of our personal experiences performing over 8,000 laparoscopic surgeries. We have tried to distill “what works” based on our knowledge of the errors made and the successes that have withstood the test of time. Not all techniques are described, and many variants are omitted. This does not mean those techniques have no value, but rather that we prefer the ones presented herein.

We hope this book will assist laparoscopic urologic oncologists in offering their patients a technically superior operation, performed in the safest manner. If this is the case, our work of the past 15 years would be validated. For the four of us, it has been a true privilege to participate in the development of this field and it is equally gratifying for us to share our collective experience with our colleagues.

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