Pediatric surgery was a late starter, breaking off from general surgery only in the last 50 years or so. The surgeons who practised it were a small, often self-selected group who typically dedicated their surgical lives to the care of infants and children. That generation would often have been available round the clock, for most days of the week, simply because there was no-one else to do the job. When they did get out, to discuss cases and compare notes, it was often across borders to meet like-minded people from overseas or out-of-town. Thus, like no other specialty, pediatric surgery is an international specialty, suffering much less from parochial constraints and much more receptive to ideas from the outside.

We hope this book helps all those involved in the surgical care of the child (including general practitioners, general surgeons, accident & emergency doctors, and pediatricians) to arrive at the correct decision and improve the quality of their care. However, any advice regarding further improvement of this book will be most welcomed. This book should also be helpful for trainees (especially pediatric surgery, general surgery, pediatric medicine and MEDICAL STUDENTS) preparing for various examinations.

The overriding aim and guiding principle of this book was to utilize capable surgeons as authors from across the world. They are the acclaimed experts in their field, and we thank them and have tried to capture their knowledge and essence within the constraints of a concise, general textbook.

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