The current era is the era of rapidly advancing technologies. My drawing above says in Japanese, “Be sure to grasp the tip of the tail of the horse that is flying in time and space.” Just so, we need to catch up with and grab hold of the tip of the very rapidly advancing technology.

We are at a point in time when we can visualize intracranial and spinal arteries and veins, or the neurovascular system, using imaging obtained without significant invasion. This book demonstrates the anatomy of the neurovascular system and images of the pathologic processes that involve these vessels in forms that may be applicable, or at least helpful, to the interpretation of images acquired with such modalities. Many excellent studies that focus on the anatomy of the intracranial arteries have accumulated in the literature. What a pity if we do not take advantage of these archival treasures to interpret images obtained using modern techniques! To utilize them efficiently, I did not hesitate to reproduce a series of engaging figures from the literature.

To facilitate the reader’s understanding of the book’s figures and for annotation, consistent abbreviations have been adopted for individual structures and incorporated into the figures without obscuring recognition of the structures indicated. Within this context, I presume that some structures can be discerned without reference to the annotations and that repeating the recognition and referring processes for individual structures may promote
memorization. In addition, in order that the direction of the transverse diagrams of the brainstem and spinal cord matches the orientation of modern transverse images, the figures are presented with the anterior orientation on the upper side and the posterior on the lower side. Our presentation reverses the traditional presentation of diagrams and images with the posterior on the upper side and the anterior on the lower side.

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I dedicate this book to my wife, Reiko, and my children, Teppei and Sayaka.

Shoki Takahashi