Preface

The recent rapid growth of cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) has reflected the trend of modern Medicine towards increasing development and utilization of noninvasive diagnostic approaches. CMR is particularly appealing because it can assess every aspect of cardiovascular anatomy, physiology, and pathology with exquisite accuracy, precision, and most importantly, with minimal associated biologic risks.

This textbook aims to provide a comprehensive educational tool for physicians who start getting involved with CMR and for the cardiology and radiology trainees who study for Board certification. The book includes 150 multiple choice questions and answers with concise explanation on each question and pertinent up-to-date bibliography.

The textbook includes chapters on physics and safety, general CMR, valvular heart disease, diseases of the myocardium and pericardium, ischemic heart disease, congenital heart disease, and diseases of the great vessels. The questions, many of which are based on clinical cases, are constructed so as to bring up teaching points. Each of the chapters is a separate entity, although the first two chapters provide the necessary background knowledge to build on for the subsequent ones.

All 135 images included in this textbook were obtained from patient studies performed at the CMR Center of Hygeia Hospital, a tertiary referral center in Athens, Greece, and a Harvard Medical International Affiliate. Sincere thanks to all our patients and to all the staff of the CT and MRI department for their support of this effort. And last but not least, many thanks to all my teachers and colleagues at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston who helped me start my career in CMR.

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