The number of robotic surgery procedures has significantly increased in the last few years, especially in general surgery and its subspecialties. Several advantages of the platform, such as three-dimensional visualization, articulating instruments, and improved ergonomics, have led to its adoption in minimally invasive procedures. As the techniques have evolved and been refined, it has allowed more surgeons access to a minimally invasive approach that they would have otherwise performed in a traditional open fashion, allowing potential benefits to the patient including less pain, less blood loss, and less wound-related complications. While laparoscopy continues to be the standard of care for cholecystectomy, robotics may be enabling in more complex gastrointestinal and hernia procedures.

This textbook is designed to present a comprehensive approach to the various applications of surgical techniques and procedures currently performed using a robotic surgical platform. The initial chapters address preliminary issues faced by surgeons and staff who may be initially undertaking these new techniques. These areas include training and credentialing, as well as instrumentation and platforms commonly used for these procedures. Subsequent chapters focus on specific disease processes and the robotic applications for those procedures, divided among the specialties. Written by unbiased experts in that field, each of these sections address issues such as patient selection, preoperative considerations, positioning and technical aspects of these operations, and how to avoid complications. Many have included their own experience and handy tips for a successful procedure.

The goal of the text is to embrace the robotic technology in its current form and what it holds in the future. Continuous technologic improvements will make the platform more versatile and improve access for surgeons and for patients. Inevitably other robotic and computer-aided technologies will follow in the future and may one day profoundly change how we perform surgery. We are grateful to these SAGES members for sharing their knowledge and we hope you will be able to utilize this in your new or current practice. We would also like to acknowledge Intuitive Surgical for allowing us to use their diagrams and pictures without any restrictions.

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