While the intentions with this book are clearly described in the preceding foreword, the launch of an English version deserves an additional preface.

European researchers and clinicians, and among those numerous colleagues from German institutions, have been pioneers of endoscopic techniques. Meanwhile, developments in this field have to be seen in a global perspective, with similar technical challenges all over the world.

This ongoing international exchange has stimulated both the editors and the chapter authors to better communicate our experience to the English-speaking world of endoscopy. It is our desire to share our expertise with you, our colleagues worldwide.

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading and profit from it in your daily work.

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