Preface

Developments in teleradiology are progressing at great speed. As a consequence, there is a need for a broad overview of the field. This first-ever book on teleradiology is presented in such a way that it should make it accessible to anyone, independent of their knowledge of technology. The text is designed to be used by all professionals, including radiologists, surgeons, nurses and allied health professionals, and computer scientists.

In a very short time, driven by technical developments, the field of teleradiology has become too extensive to be covered by only a small number of experts. Therefore, *Teleradiology* has been written with chapter contributions from a host of renowned international authorities in teleradiology (see the Contents and the Contributors). This ensures that the subject matter focusing on recent advances in teleradiology is truly up to date. Our guiding hope during this task was that as editors of multiple chapters we could still write with a single voice and keep the content coherent and simple. We hope that the clarity of this book makes up for any limitations in its comprehensiveness.

The editors took much care so that *Teleradiology* would not become merely a collection of separate chapters but, rather, would offer a consistent and structured overview of the field. We are aware that there is still considerable room for improvement and that certain elements of teleradiology are not fully covered, such as legal matters and reimbursement policy. The editors invite readers, clinicians, and students to forward their valuable comments and feedback to further improve and expand future editions of *Teleradiology*.

Books on theoretical and technical aspects inevitably use technical jargon, and this book is no exception. Although use of jargon has been minimized, it cannot be eliminated without retreating to a more superficial level of coverage. The reader’s understanding of the jargon will vary depending on his or her background, but
anyone with some background in computers, health, and/or biomedi-
cine would be able to understand most of the terms used. In any case,
an attempt to define all jargon terms has been made in the Glossary.

Teleradiology has been organized systematically. The format and
length of each chapter are standardized, thus ensuring that the con-
tent is concise and easy to read. Every chapter provides a compre-
hensive list of citations and references for further reading. Numerous
drawings and clinical photographs throughout the book illustrate
and illuminate the text well, providing its readers with high-quality
visual reference material. Particularly useful features of this text are
that each chapter has a summary of salient points for the reader.

The book comprises 21 chapters and begins with a brief intro-
ductive chapter explaining the basic concepts that are the mainstay
of teleradiology, and subsequent chapters are built on those foun-
dations. Within each chapter, the goal is to provide a comprehen-
sive overview of the topic. The chapters on telemedicine law are
deliberately placed in this first edition of the book to emphasize the
fundamental importance of these topics. Nevertheless, its content
is not inclusive, since opportunities are progressively arising in this
domain. The final chapter covers future directions of teleradiology.

This book would not have been possible without the contribution
of various people. We acknowledge and appreciate the assistance
of all reviewers and Latika Hans, editorial assistant from Banga-
lore, India. We would like to thank all authors for making this book
possible through their contributions and constant support.

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