Foreword

Writing a surgical textbook is, in many ways, like building a house. There must be a strong foundation, high quality materials, a highly motivated workforce, and the appropriate decorations. In *ENT—Head and Neck Surgery: Essential Procedures*, Professors Theissing, Rettinger, and Werner used previous editions of their textbook since 1971 as their foundation. The substantial combined experience of the authors provided excellent building materials. They were obviously highly motivated to do this book in English in order to expose their techniques to a broader audience than was possible in the German language editions. Once their house was completed, they decorated it with the highly detailed, yet remarkably clear, line drawings, essential for guiding the reader through every step of the surgical procedures.

The book is a pure surgical atlas without patient photos or references to distract the reader. While the names of some of the instruments and the procedures will not be known to the readership, still they will seem familiar thanks to the illustrations. I think of this as being similar to seeing a Mercedes in England with the steering wheel on the right-hand side. It will seem a bit different, but you will still recognize the fine lines of the exterior and the luxurious interior.

The noble purpose of medical writing, whether it be in an online journal or a multivolume textbook, is sharing our knowledge and experience with others in the medical community. The process of lifelong learning reflects the essence of what being a physician means, and the application of this knowledge to the well-being of our patients defines us.

Even today, in the era of the highest technology, textbooks still play an important role in education. The expectation of the reader is that a textbook will be an immediate source of comprehensive, authoritative, well-organized, and clearly written information. *ENT—Head and Neck Surgery: Essential Procedures* certainly meets these expectations.

Eugene N. Myers, MD, FACS, FRCE Edin (Hon)