We dedicate this book to our spouses,
Deanna and Catigan,
and our children, Sarah, Schuyler, and Ian,
who bring so much joy to our lives.
Preface

The last six years since the publication of the first edition of *Essential Urologic Laparoscopy: The Complete Clinical Guide* have marked continued improvements in technology and further refinement of techniques that have gained popularity in the field of urology. The most noteworthy technological advance since the first edition of this book is the use of the da Vinci robot to assist in surgical dissection and laparoscopic suturing in the pelvis and retroperitoneum. A wealth of literature confirming the benefits of the laparoscopic approach in urology and easy access to this information via the Internet have created an even greater demand for acquiring the knowledge and expertise to perform these operations. This has further accentuated the educational burden to provide training and resources for practicing urologists who wish to offer these procedures to their patients.

The purpose of the second edition of *Essential Urologic Laparoscopy* is to provide a practical, updated, step-by-step guide for initiating, maintaining, and expanding a successful practice in urologic laparoscopy and robotic surgery. In this edition, we have also added full descriptive sections on robotic-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy and pyeloplasty. Three new chapters providing concise, yet rich descriptions of the techniques of laparoscopic retroperitoneal lymph node dissection, renal ablation, and the hand-assisted approach to laparoscopic cystectomy have also been added. Once again, each chapter is organized into pre- and postoperative care, key surgical steps, common pitfalls, and take home messages. Each contributing author was specifically selected for his or her expertise in performing the described procedure.

An updated chapter on starting a laparoscopic as well as a robotic practice including establishing institutional privileges is also provided. The popular cross-referenced instrumentation chapter and individualized procedural instrumentation lists are once again included to enable the second edition of *Essential Urologic Laparoscopy* to serve as a reference guide for surgeons and their operating room personnel. The book concludes with a chapter on complications including informed consent and the more common complications occurring during robotic-assisted laparoscopic procedures.

It is our hope that the second edition of *Essential Urologic Laparoscopy* will provide a step-by-step manual to create and maintain a successful urologic laparoscopic and robot-assisted laparoscopic practice. The updated and new chapters as well as the sections on robotics are written as a clear and concise reference guide that should remain applicable for many years to come.

Sean P. Hedican, MD, and Stephen Y. Nakada, MD
The University of Wisconsin Medical School,
Madison, Wisconsin
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Contributors

J. Kyle Anderson, MD • Assistant Professor of Urologic Surgery, Department of Urologic Surgery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Murali K. Ankem, MD • Assistant Professor, Division of Urology, Department of Surgery, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
Gaurav Bandi, MD • Assistant Professor, Department of Urology, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, PA
Andre Berger, MD • Department of Urology, Center for Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery, Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Vincent G. Bird, MD • Assistant Professor of Clinical Urology, Department of Urology, University of Miami Leonard Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL
Jeffrey A. Cadeddu, MD • Department of Urology, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
David Canes, MD • Department of Urology, Center for Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery, Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Sidney Castro de Abreu, MD • Section of Laparoscopy and Endourology, ANDROS, Hospital Urológico de Brasília, Brasilia, Brazil
Ralph V. Clayman, MD • Professor and Chair, Department of Urology, University of California at Irvine, Orange, CA
Leslie A. Deane, MBBS, FRCSC • Department of Urology, University of California, Irvine, Orange, CA
Grant I.S. Disick, MD • Department of Urology, Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, NJ
Joseph J. Del Pizzo, MD • Director, Laparoscopic and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Department of Urology, The New York Presbyterian Hospital and Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, NY
Inderbir S. Gill, MD, MCh • Head, Section of Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery, Glickman Urological Institute, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH
Carl K. Gjertson, MD • Division of Urology, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT
Tricia D. Greene, MD • Departmental Fellow and Senior Instructor in Robotics and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Department of Urology, The New York Presbyterian Hospital and Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, NY
Sean P. Hedican, MD • Associate Professor, Department of Urology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
David J. Hernandez, MD • Senior Assistant Resident, James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD
Elias S. Hyams, MD • Department of Urology, New York University School of Medicine and Langone Medical Center, New York, NY
Marklyn J. Jones, MD • The Urology Center of Colorado, Denver, CO
Louis Kavoussi, MD • Smith Institute for Urology, North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, New Hyde Park, NY
STUART S. KESLER, MD • Department of Urology, Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, NJ
MICHAEL O. KOCH, MD • Professor and Chairman, Department of Urology, Indiana University Simon Cancer Center, Indianapolis, IN
KENNETH S. KOENEMAN, MD • Associate Professor, Department of Urologic Surgery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
JAIME LANDMAN, MD • Director of Minimally Invasive Urology, Department of Urology, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY
DAVID I. LEE, MD • Chief of the Division of Urology at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Urology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA
ADAM W. LEVINSON, MD, MS • James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD
YAIR LOTAN, MD • Assistant Professor of Surgery, Department of Urology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
PATRICK S. LOWRY, MD • Assistant Professor of Surgery, Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, Scott & White Clinic, Temple, TX
TIMOTHY D. MOON, MD • Department of Urology, University of Wisconsin Medical School, Madison, WI
RAVI MUNVER, MD • Associate Professor of Urology; Chief, Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery, Department of Urology, Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, NJ
EDWARD G. MYER, MD • Department of Urology, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT and Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT
STEPHEN Y. NAKADA, MD • The David T. Uehling Professor of Urology, Chairman of Urology, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Madison, WI
GYAN PAREEK, MD • Assistant Professor of Surgery, Department of Urology, Brown University Medical School and Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI
ERNESTO REGGIO, MD • Smith Institute for Urology, North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, New Hyde Park, New York
STEVEN J. SHICHERMAN, MD • Connecticut Surgical Group, Senior Attending Urologist, Hartford Hospital, Associate Clinical Professor of Urology, University of Connecticut Health Center, Hartford, CT
ARIEH L. SALHAV, MD • Professor of Surgery, Chief, Section of Urology, Director, Minimally Invasive Urology, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL
KEVIN SMITH • Smith Institute for Urology, North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, New Hyde Park, NY
JOSHUA M. STERN, MD • Center for Minimally Invasive Urologic Cancer Treatment, Department of Urology, University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
MICHAEL D. STIFELMAN, MD • Assistant Professor, Department of Urology, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY
LI-MING SU, MD • Associate Professor of Urology, Director of Robotic and Laparoscopic Urology, James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD
CHANDRU P. SUNDARAM, MD • Associate Professor, Department of Urology, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN
INGOLF A. TUERK, MD, PhD • Head, Section of Laparoscopy and Robotic Surgery, Department of Urology, Lahey Clinic Medical Center, Burlington, MA
HOWARD N. WINFIELD, MD • Professor, Director of Laparoscopic, Robotic and Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
J. STUART WOLF, JR., MD • Professor, Department of Urology, University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, MI
ILIA S. ZELTSER, MD • Clinical Assistant Professor of Urology, Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA
KEVIN C. ZORN, MD • Assistant Professor of Surgery, Co-Director, University of Chicago Minimally Invasive Urology Program, University of Chicago Hospitals and Weiss Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL