Thymic tumors are a series of malignancies with different biological behaviors, clinical manifestation, and prognosis. Because of their unique nature and rarity, many issues remain to be explored so as to improve management outcomes. And there has never been any book specialized in the disease. Therefore, I congratulate AME on publishing this series of papers as a monograph, which is certainly unprecedented.

In recent years, two advances have contributed greatly to improved understanding of thymic tumors. The first is international and regional collaborations in joint studies for this relatively rare disease. Included in this compilation of related publications are the results from the Chinese Alliance for Research in Thymomas (ChART) retrospective studies that cover the most concerned questions in diagnosis and management of thymic malignancy (*Part I. General concepts and strategies in the management of thymic malignancies*). These include preoperative diagnosis, induction and adjuvant therapies, surgical procedures, and concomitant myasthenia. Although many of these still remain unsolved, it is a great step forward and help pave the way for future studies. And there is reason to believe that readers would benefit greatly from the comments on these studies by an international panel, many of them have been actively involved in the International Thymic Malignancy Interest Group (ITMIG).

The second and also a striking progress owes greatly to the advance in modern technology. Similar to the recent trend in lung and esophageal cancer surgery, minimally invasive approaches in thymic surgery has also attracted increasing attention and has contributed to improved outcome while maintaining similar oncological results. It is thus not surprising at all to notice that *Part II, Surgical therapies for thymic malignancies* of this book consists almost exclusively of topics on minimally invasive thymic surgery. A diversity of approaches is introduced here, including both left and right, subxiphoid VATS as well as robotic thymectomy. On top of these are introduction and perspectives on oncological principles and outcomes of minimally invasive surgery in management of thymic tumors. Hopefully this book would help disseminate the ideas of standardized management in thymic malignancy to many medical practitioners involved.

More hands build a higher flame. This book is not yet a comprehensive text that would solve all problems in the related area. Yet, it represents the state of the art in the management of thymic tumors and collected wisdom from colleagues in different specialties related to this interesting and important disease. The contents included here would be helpful for all medical professionals and researchers in the field and better inspire those interested to probe further for continuing improvement. We very much look forward to updating the contents and make it more educational in a future edition.

*Wentao Fang, MD*

Department of Thoracic Surgery, Shanghai Chest Hospital,
Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai 200030, China

*(Email: vwtfang@hotmail.com; vwtfang12@shchest.org).*