

The beauty of the practice of medicine is that it continues to evolve as our understanding of pathophysiology, genetics, diagnostic options and treatment effects continues to be refined. Arguably the biggest improvement over the past decade has been the development of a true medical “team” concept in dealing with various ailments. Whether it be the multidisciplinary tumor board in determining therapeutic options for a cancer patient or a structural heart disease team in determining the best form of valve repair/replacement for a patient with valve disease—the role of the multidisciplinary team in evaluating, executing and measuring the success of a medical decision is paramount.

This book represents an endeavor that exemplifies the principles of the multidisciplinary team and extends it to an international forum. Utilizing a variety of case presentations that include esophageal neoplasms, airway disease, pulmonary emboli, sternal wound complications and systemic complications from cancer—the current issues of thoracic disease are highlighted and discussed in a user friendly, real conversation format.

It has been a privilege to be a part of the *International Multi-Disciplinary Team* and I am certain that the reader will gain a new perspective on either disease management or a different, more collaborative approach for the treatment of their patients.



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