

Since the introduction of thoracoscopy, thoracic surgery has continued to evolve to more minimally invasive approaches. Outcomes are equivalent to open thoracotomy with less pain, decreased length of stay, and shorter recovery times. However, thoroscopic procedures have a steep learning curve due to reduced tactile sensation and loss of degrees of freedom.

Robotic thoracic surgery may address some of these shortcomings by providing 3-dimensional visualization and wristed instruments especially when there is limited space such as in the chest or mediastinum. Several studies have shown at least equivalent outcomes to thoracoscopy across multiple centers. While there are advantages for the surgeon in terms of dexterity and visualization, the question remains how these advantages affect patient outcomes and whether the robotic approach is a true revolution or an evolution from other minimally invasive approaches. The benefits of robotic thoracic surgery will need to be clearly defined especially in light of higher hospital costs although this will likely improve with the introduction of new robotic platforms and more widespread adoption of robotic surgery. There is a significant learning curve, but with appropriate mentorship and team training, robotic surgery can be performed safely by experienced thoracic surgeons.

The first edition of *Robotic Thoracic Surgery: Ruijin Hospital Experience* brings together the extensive experience of the thoracic surgeons at Ruijin Hospital with expert commentary from thoracic surgeons around the world. The authors provide practical tips and good illustrative photos that demonstrate the key steps and challenging points that all readers, from the novice to the expert, can benefit from. The book covers the spectrum of thoracic robotic surgery including pulmonary resection, esophagectomy, and thymectomy and is highly recommended for all surgeons performing robotic thoracic surgery.

**Jules Lin, MD, FACS**

Section of Thoracic Surgery, University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA  
(Email: [juleslin@med.umich.edu](mailto:juleslin@med.umich.edu))