

PREFACE

Knowledge of the structure of the human body is not only the domain of the surgeon, it is also essential for effective and responsible clinical practice. It requires many skills that lead to a considered analysis of a patient's normal or abnormal structure. It requires *discovery* in learning that allows for normal variation that cannot be achieved by reference to atlases or to plastic models and CDs alone. Dissection remains the best method for the student through the touch and feel of human tissues, appreciation of the three-dimensional structure of the body and normal variability within the population resulting from gender or ethnicity. It is a visio-tactile experience. Increasing reliance on imaging methods such as MRI, CAT scanning and ultrasound demands a *higher level of anatomical knowledge* than has been available or generally deemed necessary. This is also the case for the use of minimally invasive fibre optics in examination and key-hole surgery.

Modern general practice requires an ability to handle many minor procedures such as venepuncture, regional anaesthesia for minor operations, suturing in trauma cases or obstetric and gynaecological procedures, examination of tumours or benign swellings and symptoms resulting from anatomical proximity of related structures. It includes the ability to examine anorectal problems; damage to hands and feet; removal of foreign bodies; musculoskeletal problems; oro-dental diseases; ear, nose and throat problems; examination of the eye; varicose veins; catheterisation of vessels and ducts as well as taking biopsies or puss or body fluid. All of these procedures require a knowledge of anatomy. Many medical malpractice suits arise from a lack of knowledge of basic anatomy rather than the lack of insight into and understanding of pathologic processes.

These three workbooks are directed in the first instance at undergraduate medical, dental and physiotherapy students and graduates who are preparing for clinical specialty. They aim to draw attention to the clinical application of anatomical knowledge and to supplement lectures, tutorials, textbook study and dissection. They cover three basic regions, in Book 1. Upper and Lower Limbs, in Book 2. Thorax and Abdomen, and in Book 3. Head and Neck (including the Back). Each volume contains an Appendix covering relevant summaries of the Autonomic Nervous System and Lymphatic System.

The text provides:

- (a) Instructions for focussing attention on key structures and their relationships. This is achieved through instructions for the student to make simplified drawings of

particular features. The drawing focuses attention to relationships and the synthesis of regions.

- (b) Functional aspects associated with regions.
- (c) Clinically based questions that require an anatomical basis in order to be understood.
- (d) Notes simplifying or indicating the overall organization of regions.
- (e) Revision lists of structures and concepts that should be studied and understood in each region.

We wish to thank Professor C. Wendell-Smith for his guidance on anatomical nomenclature and Ms Jill Aschman who reworked sections of the text. We are also very very grateful to Professor C.E. Oxnard for his comments and advice.

We also want to express our gratitude to Dr Phua Kok Khoo, the Editor-in-Chief and Chairman of World Scientific Publishing Co. and Ms Lim Sook Cheng, Senior Editor who helped to see this work to fruition. Our warm thanks to Ms Ang Ching Ting for her editorial guidance.

CH
FPL
Hobart, 2006