

# Preface

Young surgeons and applicants to the EUMC examination have often been asking for a textbook on surgical oncology; a text they could consider as a standard in their education in cancer surgery. Textbooks on medical oncology were predominantly mentioned but a surgical counterpart could not be identified.

This collection of surgical techniques represents our first step in this direction. Surgery, like sailing, is an art, and just as there is no “exact” way to set your sails, there is no exact way to tie your knots. However, in surgery, as in sailing, experience and evidence are pivotal in improving our skills.

I am extremely grateful to all of the contributors who took the time to put a short text together, summarising their expert views on the surgical procedures that they have mastered. Importantly, the text is thoroughly referenced and supported by data from the literature, where available.

I would like to congratulate the young colleagues who have assisted their mentors in setting this up; this project was always intended to be educational. The true target of a great surgeon is to set up a team around him. The privilege and pleasure of sharing knowledge is immense. In this way, key contributors have been working alongside their supportive teams to make this project possible.

A wide range of oncological procedures are taken into account: from urology to breast, colorectal to hepato-biliary, gynaecology, thoracic, and so on. This is the completion of a goal that the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) had in mind. ESSO was founded

in 1981 to advance the art, science and practice of surgery for the treatment of cancer. I firmly believe that organ-based societies will not be able to represent the opinion of a surgical oncologist who is constantly engaged in a multidisciplinary approach to cancer patients.

Scientific knowledge has no boundaries; although there are no geographical limitations to medical progress, this book attempts to collect examples of master knowledge from all around Europe.

This knowledge was conceived within the Education & Training Committee at the European Society of Surgical Oncology. It is to this Society to which I am indebted for supporting me and providing a network of information, which has definitively been useful in assembling this collection of surgical procedures.

The image on the book cover is an original illustration by Michael Howard, a brilliant visual artist who also contributed to some figures within the book.

It is my sincere hope that through this book the readers will expand their knowledge and experience and that this will be reflected in improved care and treatment of patients.

Prof. Riccardo A. Audisio  
Consultant Surgical Oncologist  
University of Liverpool  
St Helens Hospital  
Marshalls Cross Road  
St Helens WA9 3DA - UK