

Preface

Singapore has been actively involved with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in training tissue bank operators from the Asia-Pacific region, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Africa, since NUH Tissue Bank was appointed to be the IAEA/NUS Regional Training Centre for RCA member states (Asia Pacific) in 1997. In November 1997, NUS held the first IAEA/NUS Diploma Course in Tissue Banking, the first of its kind in the world. Since then, ten batches have successfully participated — the 11th batch, at the time of writing, has started as an online diploma course in August 2009. The course has been conducted as an online course since 2004 (starting from the 6th batch). To date a total of 141 tissue bank operators (from 27 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa and Australia) have convocated with an NUS Diploma in Tissue Banking.

Singapore has been instrumental in development of the IAEA/NUS Multi-Media Curriculum on Tissue Banking, which was produced in April 1998. This curriculum served as the textbook for all diploma courses run by IAEA jointly with NUS. This curriculum was translated into Spanish and used as textbook for all IAEA courses held in Latin America, with Argentina as the Regional Training Centre since 2000. It has also been translated into Korean language in 2003 by IAEA for use in its Korean National Training Courses run annually since 2004.

This book is the latest update on all topics in the previous Multi-Media Curriculum ranging from donor selection criteria, procurement techniques, laboratory testing, processing techniques for deep-frozen and

freeze-dried allografts, quality control issues, radiation sterilization techniques, clinical transplantation of bones and soft tissues and principles of sterile techniques in the operating room. Incorporated in the book are the basic science topics such as anatomy, biomechanics, microbiology, and immunology.

This book will be useful for all tissue bank operators, doctors, nurses, technicians and allied healthcare professionals dealing with the practice of tissue procurement, processing and clinical transplantation.

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