

Preface

Echocardiography has probably become the most commonly used diagnostic tool in congenital heart disease, with many a senior physician now lamenting the fact that their younger colleagues resort to the 'echo' machine before they even place the stethoscope on the patient's chest. This textbook aims to facilitate understanding of cardiac malformations as seen in cross-sectional views, notwithstanding that some echocardiographic machines come equipped with software for three-dimensional reconstruction. The variation of structural malformations is legion and daunting to the beginner. With a systematic approach, and describing what we see, instead of speculating on what went wrong during development, congenital heart defects need not be complicated.

This slim volume is the culmination of many years of our short courses on Echo-Anatomic Correlates at the Royal Brompton Hospital. Indeed it is produced in response to continual requests from many of our students. Without their enthusiasm and overwhelming interest in learning about congenital heart defects, this textbook would not have come to fruition. One of us, SYH, would not have found the extra energy to complete this task had it not been for the gentle reminders from many of a series of commissioning editors at Imperial College Press. The patience of Lenore Betts, the current editor, has paid off.

We are indebted to our clinical colleagues at the Royal Brompton for the images taken from patients under their care and to Manjit Josen and Jo Wolfendon who performed many of the echocardiograms.

We are extremely grateful to the patients and their relatives for consenting to tissues and organs being used for education and research. We hope that this book provides ample evidence of the immense contribution that such donations make to diagnosis and treatment of current and future patients.

We also express our thanks to the Cardiac Morphology team at the Royal Brompton for their support. Specifically, Karen McCarthy and Tony Philip helped in the initial phase of collating some of the images and Carina Lim printed final copies. Joy Quek, Senior Editor at World Scientific Publishing Co. managed the project.

SYH prepared all the illustrations and all mistakes and omissions are her sole responsibility.

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