

PREFACE

This is the Fourteenth Edition of *Muir's Textbook of Pathology*, building upon the work of previous editions. It is different in a number of ways from previous editions, but we think it is similar enough to retain the traditional values of its predecessors. We trust we have produced a text that will be useful both to undergraduate medical students and to postgraduates who are interested in having a better understanding of disease upon which to base either their clinical practice or their research, or both.

This edition differs in the balance between general and systematic pathology from most earlier editions, with the general section being relatively shorter. This is deliberate; it is not meant to suggest that we think an understanding of the basic sciences is any less important to clinical practice than it used to be – quite the contrary. What we have tried to do is to focus on the most clinically relevant basic science and we have included some of that in the systematic chapters where its relevance is hopefully easier to appreciate.

We have also introduced into almost every chapter one or two special study topics where the information provided is rather more than most medical educators would include in the core curriculum of a medical undergraduate course. This is intended to interest and stimulate the best students

to appreciate that undergraduate education is just the beginning – a window on the exciting and challenging world of disease. We have also included in most chapters, several case histories which illustrate and add to the information provided in the main text, in an attempt to emphasize the fundamental relevance of pathology to clinical medicine. By adopting this format of special study topics and case studies integrated into, but clearly distinguished from, the core text, we are adopting the approach taken to medical education in many medical schools. We strongly support the move in the UK to more integrated teaching of the disciplines in medicine. We, not unexpectedly, believe that the best doctors are knowledgeable about disease processes, and we hope that this belief is reflected in the level at which we have pitched the text.

It will be noted for this edition of the book that for the first time ever the majority of the editors are not based in Glasgow. However, three of us are Glasgow graduates, and we all acknowledge our debt to, and the inspiration we have drawn from, our predecessors in Glasgow Pathology. We are honoured to have had the opportunity to edit this latest edition of 'Muir' and hope that we have done justice to the task.

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