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# Foreword

In the 7 years since it was first published, *Neurosurgery Fundamentals* has become a valuable handbook for residents, medical students, and advanced practice providers. It is present in coat pockets around hospital wards and around the world. In that same time, Nitin Agarwal has advanced from a busy resident to an Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, with a spine fellowship at my alma mater, University of California – San Francisco. In this second edition of *Neurosurgery Fundamentals*, Dr. Agarwal has put together his experiences, reflections, and advice. The process of collecting important bits of knowledge and insight is so critical and I am happy to see a young writer already making his contributions. I know from my own writings that brevity is essential to be relevant for medical students and residents, and this handbook distills the basics of history, neurological examination, anatomy, radiology, bedside procedures, and the operating room for quick and easy reading. This handbook also summarizes key

concepts in neurocritical care, trauma, vascular, tumor, spinal, and functional pain, and pediatric neurosurgery, which are the clinical areas most likely to be encountered in patients in the early stages of an aspiring neurosurgeon's career or when on call in the middle of the night. The accompanying figures and illustrations are well done and complement the text. I particularly enjoyed the roadmaps to academic careers and the advice from masters.

Dr. Agarwal has assembled contributions from an esteemed group of true experts in the field. Getting leaders in our specialty to share their wisdom and insights on patient management and career success in neurosurgery is invaluable and rarely done, and this book captures the advice of key leaders. I congratulate Dr. Agarwal and the many contributing authors of this handbook. I expect that it will remain a classic for young neurosurgeons who want to get off on the right foot, and that we will continue to see this handbook in the coat pockets of neurosurgical subinterns and residents on the wards.

*Michael T. Lawton, MD  
Professor of Neurosurgery  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Barrow Neurological Institute  
Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery  
Chief of Vascular and Skull Base Neurosurgery Programs  
Robert F. Spetzler Endowed Chair in Neurosciences  
St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center  
Phoenix, Arizona, USA*