

Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I write this foreword. This takes me personally back to 1970 when my mentor Dr. Fearon and I were researching surgical techniques for reconstruction of the pediatric airway using African green monkeys as our operative model. The term “translational” research was not current at that time but this indeed was a great example of this. I also did not realize that this would lead to my chosen career path in the future. The need for such work arose because of the emergence of a new disease entity in infants following the introduction of long-term intubation as a means of respiratory support in premature infants, leading to the development of subglottic stenosis and tracheotomy in an unfortunate few. The outcome of this work was that the Cotton anterior graft reconstruction became the standard workhorse of airway surgery in children.

The senior author, Evan Propst, was a fellow in our Division at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital (CCHMC) from 2008 to 2010 and became thoroughly exposed to all the techniques of pediatric airway surgery that have developed over the past 45 years. Concurrently, Evan was exposed to several members of our Division who were developing a curriculum for simulation in pediatric otolaryngologic procedures in general, including airway surgery. The synergism of this exposure to live surgical procedures and simulation has led to his development of this most important text.

This cutting-edge manual is a supreme example of being the right publication at the right time. It will be of great benefit not only to all trainees in pediatric otolaryngology but also worldwide to younger and midlevel specialists who may not have had in-depth exposure to airway surgery in their training yet who are in a position to treat these patients in their local environments. This manual fills a niche that is presently empty. As I read the chapter on harvest of costal cartilage, I recalled that while doing my first costal cartilage harvest in the operating room at CCHMC in 1974, I was confronted by one of my pediatric surgical colleagues “offering his help” as needed. I have to feel this book would have increased my confidence level at that moment!

In summary, this beautifully written and illustrated book will be of great importance to all pediatric otolaryngologists worldwide who treat children with airway problems. Following the guidelines will enable the practitioner to test his or her surgical skills prior to the operating room. This will be a classic for many years to come.

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