Preface

It is by your own eyes and your ears and your own mind and (I may add) your own heart that you must observe and love

Sir William Osler

It has been just over 20 years that Hawke and Jahn's seminal book entitled *Diseases of the Ear: Clinical and Pathologic Aspects* was published. The book was unique from other textbooks in otology at the time and concentrated its message according to two well-known proverbs in English literature namely "*A picture is worth a thousand words*" and "*Seeing is believing.*"

Dr. Masoud Motasaddi Zarandy has taken these twin concepts, and in the process, has produced a very beautiful and a visually pleasing book. The pictures and accompanying text allows the reader not only to see how different pathologies affect the inner ear but also to appreciate the clinical consequences that arise from our decision-making processes. Far from dry, the inner ear and skull base comes to life when we see the dynamics of how disease involves this complex and integral part of the body.

For the uninitiated, this book takes us on a tour of the field that has evolved over the past decade into the formal discipline of neurotology/skull base medicine and surgery. It has quite rightly become a specialized branch of otolaryngology/neurosurgery where interdisciplinary collaboration has become the rule rather than the exception. Advances in imaging (including intraoperative stereotaxis), technology (i.e., implantation for profound sensorineural hearing loss), and molecular biology have all played a role in the further management of disorders in this region and will continue to do so in future.

With regard to its content, the book is divided into a number of chapters that cover the clinical conditions that commonly involve the inner ear and skull base. To mention a few of the chapters in the book provides case in point. For example, the histopathology of temporal bone malignancy is a rarely ever appreciated *antemortem*, yet it continues to provide us with a wealth of information concerning how tumors spread in the skull base. Our understanding of congenital deafness and its association with various developmental inner ear anomalies have significant practical consequences regarding the success or failure of cochlear implantation surgery. The success of physical therapy maneuvers for the treatment of benign positional paroxysmal vertigo might realistically depend on whether the patient has cupulolithiasis or canalolithiasis as the pathologic cause. All the above considerations are detailed in the accompanying text.

As Dr. Motasaddi's principal mentor during his fellowship at the University of Toronto, I have had an extremely gratifying experience to have been a small part of his overall growth as a physician and surgeon. His book contains the pure essence of clinical research, which compels us forward in the hopes that we may better care

for our patients in the treatment of their disorders. As in any endeavor, there were a number of individuals who helped in one way or another. In this regard, the authors specifically thank Professor Blake Papsin and Dr. Susan Blaser for providing us with the necessary imaging that helped improve our understanding of inner ear anomalies. We would also be remiss if we did not acknowledge the pioneering work of Professor Michael Hawke (the world's foremost chronicler of otologic pathology), whose beautiful otoscopic pictures grace this book. Finally, we thank all those who were involved in the Ear Pathology Research Laboratory at the University of Toronto over the years. While the lab somewhat sadly is no longer in existence, its archival collection contains an unparalleled source of unique medical information to this day. And who ever thought old bones couldnot tell new tales!

Finally, the quote at the beginning of this preface from Sir William Osler, father of modern medicine, continues to ring true for all medical practitioners. May this book in conjunction from what you hear and learn from your patients continue to guide you in your mission to heal!

Toronto, Canada Prof. John Rutka