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# Foreword

As one privileged to participate in and witness the quantum leaps made during the golden age of surgery, I have long regarded reconstructive surgery as a torch bearer on the path of progress. Microsurgery, flaps, and tissue expansion incorporate the technical accomplishments, engineering principles, and sheer artistry that, as a composite, generate a sense of appreciation and awe.

Drs. Mathes and Nahai, accepted authorities in the field of reconstructive surgery, provide a text that evokes the adjective “classic.” This comprehensive presentation of anatomic data, criteria for decision making, and technical principles and processes is bound in an elegantly produced two-volume work that will satisfy the needs of all reconstructive surgeons. For those who focus on the field, *Reconstructive Surgery: Principles, Anatomy, & Technique* attains biblical status; for those who seek to learn the principles, applications, and techniques, the book is encyclopedic.

As their original contributions have evolved, the authors have revised their reconstructive ladder into a reconstructive triangle. The number three has been meaningful and at times magical throughout history. From the Trinity to the usual three acts of Shakespeare’s plays, three strikes and out, and three outs in an inning, the number has attracted attention. In *Reconstructive Surgery: Principles, Anatomy, & Technique* the three elements of principles, anatomy, and technique provide the firm three-legged basis for achieving the desired triad of form, function, and safety.

The authors’ expertise, the effectiveness of their explanatory text, and the elegance of the pictorial presentations are the three elements that will make this book a memorable contribution to the medical literature.

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