I would like to dedicate this book to my wife, Maureen, and our daughters, Stacey, Kelly and Kristen, for their love and support for a project that has spanned two years of nights and weekends. On behalf of my co-editor, I would also like to dedicate the book to Melissa and Andrew Carson Budoff, who was kind enough to wait until August 13, 2007 to join the world, after this text went to press.

Thomas E. Trumble, MD
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Foreword

The beautiful artwork on the cover integrates artwork of Andreas Vesalius’ Secunda Musculorum Tabula from his book De corporis humani fabrica libri septem (Seven books on the fabric of the human body) which was published in Basel, Switzerland in 1543. His book highlighted the fact that the upper extremity was a masterpiece of intricacy and durability. 463 years later, we are still exploring these intracies in Hand Surgery Update IV which provides a concise review of the core knowledge in upper extremity surgery, including cutting-edge advances in our field. From microsurgery to shoulder arthroscopy, we have tried to include the critical features of the hand and upper extremity into a single knowledge-base publication. I am extremely indebted to the authors who took time away from their families and practices to analyze the best evidence-based research to help residents, fellows, surgeons and therapists better treat their patients. This text provides the first musculoskeletal update that includes beautiful color photos and illustrations and video demonstrations. Who would have dreamed that a surgeon could study for a challenging case in an office, operating room or even in an airplane, read the advice of a master surgeon and then view the technical aspects in living color with a video demonstration? My co-editor, Jeffrey E. Budoff, MD, and I would like to thank our publishing team at the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, especially Matthew Smith and Bernadette Blaszczyk. Under Matthew Smith’s leadership, the Hand Society has crafted an extremely responsive publishing team that produces work of the highest possible quality with an incredibly short turn-around time.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the members of our Hand and Upper Extremity Team at the University of Washington: Josette Morton, Tennile Monroe, Thanapong Waitayawinyu, MD, and Nicholas Nemechek. Tennile and Josette coordinated the massive transfer of data involving manuscripts, figures and videos with the ASSH publication team. Thanapong Waitayawinyu and Nicholas Nemechek helped to coordinate the extremely challenging projects of recording videos, voice-overs and detailed artwork.

All of us involved with this incredible publication feel very privileged to work with the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. This organization has taken the leadership role in providing the highest quality of educational material regarding hand and upper extremity surgery. Its vision to educate resonates with the words of our mentors, such as Paul Brand, MD. Dr. Brand taught us that there is a need to touch and hold our patients with our hands. Hand-to-hand we learn to understand, diagnose and treat our patients as they teach us. After all the time I have spent preparing this text, I realize that it is still a work in progress. I welcome suggestions from the readers on how to advance and improve the text for the eventual publication of Hand Surgery Update V in 2010.

Best regards,

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American Society for Surgery of the Hand