

SABISTON TEXTBOOK *of* SURGERY

The **BIOLOGICAL BASIS** of
MODERN SURGICAL PRACTICE

20TH EDITION

COURTNEY M. TOWNSEND, JR., MD

Professor
Robertson-Poth Distinguished Chair in General Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

R. DANIEL BEAUCHAMP, MD

J.C. Foshee Distinguished Professor and Chairman, Section of
Surgical Sciences
Professor of Surgery and Cell and Developmental Biology and
Cancer Biology
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Surgeon-in-Chief, Vanderbilt University Hospital
Nashville, Tennessee

B. MARK EVERS, MD

Professor and Vice-Chair for Research, Department of Surgery
Director, Lucille P. Markey Cancer Center
Markey Cancer Foundation Endowed Chair
Physician-in-Chief, Oncology Service Line UK Healthcare
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

KENNETH L. MATTOX, MD

Professor and Vice Chairman
Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery
Baylor College of Medicine
Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery
Ben Taub General Hospital
Houston, Texas

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Executive Content Strategist: Michael Houston

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*To our patients, who grant us the privilege of practicing our craft;
to our students, residents, and colleagues, from whom we learn;
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CONTRIBUTORS

Cary B. Aarons, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Andrew B. Adams, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor
Emory Transplant Center
Department of Surgery
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, Georgia

Charles A. Adams, Jr., MD

Chief
Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care
Rhode Island Hospital
Associate Professor of Surgery
Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island

Ahmed Al-Mousawi, MD

Shriners Hospitals for Children
Department of Surgery
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Jatin Anand, MD

Resident in Cardiothoracic Surgery
Division of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery
Department of Surgery
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, North Carolina

Nancy Ascher, MD, PhD

Professor and Chair
Department of Surgery
University of California at San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Stanley W. Ashley, MD

Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Frank Sawyer Professor of Surgery
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

Paul S. Auerbach, MD

Professor of Emergency Medicine
Redlich Family Professor
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Brian Badgwell, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas

Faisal G. Bakaeen, MD, FACS

Staff Surgeon
Department of Thoracic and
Cardiovascular Surgery
Heart and Vascular Institute
Cleveland, Ohio
Adjunct Professor
The Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Philip S. Barie, MD, MBA, FIDSA, FACS, FCCM

Professor of Surgery and Public Health
Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, New York

B. Timothy Baxter, MD

Vice-Chairman, Department of Surgery
Professor, Vascular Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, Nebraska

R. Daniel Beauchamp, MD

J.C. Foshee Distinguished Professor and Chairman
Section of Surgical Sciences
Professor of Surgery and Cell and Developmental Biology and
Cancer Biology
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Surgeon-in-Chief
Vanderbilt University Hospital
Nashville, Tennessee

Yolanda Becker, MD, FACS

Professor and Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplant
Division of Transplantation
Department of Surgery
University of Chicago
Pritzker School of Medicine
Chicago, Illinois

Joshua I.S. Bleier, MD

Program Director
Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery
University of Pennsylvania Health System
Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Howard Brody, MD, PhD

Former Director
Institute for the Medical Humanities
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Carlos V.R. Brown, MD, FACS

Associate Professor and Vice Chairman of Surgery
University of Texas Southwestern—Austin
Trauma Medical Director
University Medical Center Brackenridge
Austin, Texas

Bruce D. Browner, MD, MS

Gray-Gossling Chair
Professor and Chairman Emeritus
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
University of Connecticut
Farmington, Connecticut
Director
Department of Orthopaedics
Hartford Hospital
Hartford, Connecticut

Brian B. Burkey, MD

Vice-Chairman
Head and Neck Institute
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, Ohio

Joshua Carson, MD

Shriners Hospitals for Children
Department of Surgery
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Steven N. Carter, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Howard C. Champion, MD

Professor of Surgery
Uniformed Service University of the Health Sciences
Bethesda, Maryland

Faisal Cheema, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor
Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy
Department of Surgery
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Charlie C. Cheng, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor
Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy
Department of Surgery
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Kenneth J. Cherry, MD

Edwin P. Lehman Professor of Surgery
Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery
University of Virginia Medical Center
Charlottesville, Virginia

John D. Christein, MD

Associate Professor
Department of Surgery
University of Alabama School of Medicine
Birmingham, Alabama

Dai H. Chung, MD

Professor and Chairman
Janie Robinson and John Moore Lee Chair
Department of Pediatric Surgery
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

William G. Cioffi, MD

Chief
Department of Surgery
Rhode Island Hospital
Professor and Chairman of Surgery
Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island

Michael Coburn, MD

Professor and Chairman
Scott Department of Urology
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Carlo M. Contreras, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Lorraine D. Cornwell, MD

Assistant Professor
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Baylor College of Medicine
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
Houston, Texas

Marion E. Couch, MD, PhD, MBA, FACS

Richard T. Miyamoto Professor and Chair of Head and Neck Surgery
Physician Executive
Surgical Services for IU Health Physicians
Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis, Indiana

Merril T. Dayton, MD

Salt Lake City, Utah

Bradley M. Dennis, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care
Department of Surgery
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

Sohum K. Desai, MD

Resident
Division of Neurosurgery
Department of Surgery
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Rajeev Dhupar, MD, MBA

Assistant Professor
Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery
Division of Thoracic and Foregut Surgery
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Jose J. Diaz, MD, CNS, FACS, FCCM

Professor of Surgery
Chief Acute Care Surgery
R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center
University of Maryland Medical Center
Baltimore, Maryland

Zachary C. Dietch, MD

Department of Surgery
The University of Virginia Health System
Charlottesville, Virginia

Roger Dmochowski, MD, MMHC, FACS

Professor of Urology
Director, Pelvic Medicine and Reconstruction Fellowship
Department of Urology
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Vice Chair, Section of Surgical Sciences
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Associate Director of Quality and Safety
Executive Director of Risk Prevention
Vanderbilt Health System
Executive Medical Director for Patient Safety and Quality (Surgery)
Associate Chief of Staff
Medical Director of Risk Management
Vanderbilt University Hospital
Nashville, Tennessee

Vikas Dudeja, MD

Assistant Professor
Division of Surgical Oncology
Department of Surgery
University of Miami
Miller School of Medicine
Miami, Florida

Quan-Yang Duh, MD

Professor of Surgery
University of California—San Francisco
Surgical Service
San Francisco VA Medical Center
San Francisco, California

Timothy J. Eberlein, MD

Bixby Professor and Chairman
Department of Surgery
Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Distinguished Professor
Director, Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, Missouri

James S. Economou, MD, PhD

Baumont Professor of Surgery
Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics
Professor of Medical and Molecular Pharmacology
University of California—Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

E. Christopher Ellison, MD

Professor
Department of Surgery
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Stephen R.T. Evans, MD

Professor of Surgery
Georgetown University Medical Center
Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer
MedStar Health
Washington, DC

B. Mark Evers, MD

Professor and Vice-Chair for Research
Department of Surgery
Director
Lucille P. Markey Cancer Center
Markey Cancer Foundation Endowed Chair
Physician-in-Chief
Oncology Service Line UK Healthcare
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

Grant Fankhauser, MD

Assistant Professor
Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy
Department of Surgery
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Farhood Farjah, MD, MPH

Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery
Surgical Outcomes Research Center
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Celeste C. Finnerty, PhD

Shriners Hospitals for Children
Department of Surgery
Sealy Center for Molecular Medicine
Institute for Translational Sciences
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Nicholas A. Fiore II, MD

Private Practice
Houston, Texas

David R. Flum, MD, MPH

Professor and Association Chair for Research Surgery
Director, Surgical Outcomes Research Center
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Yuman Fong, MD

Chairman
Department of Surgery
City of Hope Medical Center
Duarte, California

Mandy Ford, PhD

Associate Professor
Emory Transplant Surgery
Department of Surgery
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, Georgia

Charles D. Fraser, Jr., MD

Chief and The Donovan Chair in Congenital Heart Surgery
Surgeon-in-Chief, Texas Children's Hospital
Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics
Susan V. Clayton Chair in Surgery
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Julie A. Freischlag, MD

Professor of Surgery
Vice Chancellor
Human Health Services
Dean, School of Medicine
University of California—Davis
Sacramento, California

Gerald M. Fried, MD, CM, FRCSC, FACS

Edward W. Archibald Professor and Chairman of Surgery
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Robert D. Fry, MD

Emilie and Roland DeHellebranth Professor of Surgery Emeritus
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Nasrin Ghalyaie, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of Arizona College of Medicine
Tucson, Arizona

S. Peter Goedegebuure, PhD

Research Associate Professor
Department of Surgery
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, Missouri

Oliver L. Gunter, MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Surgery
Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Nashville, Tennessee

Jennifer L. Halpern, MD

Assistant Professor
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Vanderbilt Orthopaedic Institute
Nashville, Tennessee

John B. Hanks, MD

C. Bruce Morton Professor and Chief
Division of General Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

Laura R. Hanks, MD

Resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
University of Rochester
School of Medicine and Dentistry
Rochester, New York

Jennifer W. Harris, MD

General Surgery Resident
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Markey Cancer Center
Lexington, Kentucky

Jennifer A. Heller, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Director
Johns Hopkins Vein Center
Department of Surgery
Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions
Baltimore, Maryland

Jon C. Henry, MD

Fellow
Vascular Surgery
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Antonio Hernandez, MD

Associate Professor
Department of Anesthesiology
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

David N. Herndon, MD, FACS

Chief of Staff
Shriners Hospitals for Children
Department of Surgery
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Martin J. Heslin, MD, MSHA

Professor and Director
Division of Surgical Oncology
Department of Surgery
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Asher Hirshberg, MD

Director of Emergency Vascular Surgery
Kings County Hospital Center
Brooklyn, New York

Wayne Hofstetter, MD

Professor of Surgery
 Deputy Chair
 Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery
 University of Texas
 MD Anderson Cancer Center
 Houston, Texas

Ginger E. Holt, MD

Associate Professor
 Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
 Vanderbilt Orthopaedic Institute
 Nashville, Tennessee

Michael D. Holzman, MD, MPH

Professor of Surgery
 Department of Surgery
 Vanderbilt University Medical Center
 Nashville, Tennessee

Michael S. Hu, MD, MPH, MS

Post-Doctoral Fellow
 Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
 Department of Surgery
 Stanford University School of Medicine
 Stanford, California
 General Surgery Resident
 Department of Surgery
 John A. Burns School of Medicine
 University of Hawaii
 Honolulu, Hawaii

Eric S. Hungness, MD, FACS

Associate Professor of Surgery and Medical Education
 S. David Stulberg Research Professor
 Northwestern University
 Feinberg School of Medicine
 Chicago, Illinois

Kelly K. Hunt, MD

Professor
 Department of Breast Surgical Oncology
 University of Texas
 MD Anderson Cancer Center
 Houston, Texas

Jeffrey Indes, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor of Surgery and Radiology
 Associate Program Director, Vascular Surgery
 Yale University School of Medicine
 New Haven, Connecticut

Patrick G. Jackson, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor of Surgery
 Chief, Division of General Surgery
 MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
 Washington, DC

Eric H. Jensen, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
 University of Minnesota
 Minneapolis, Minnesota

Marc G. Jeschke, MD, PhD, FACS, FCCM, FRCS(c)

Director, Ross Tilley Burn Centre
 Department of Surgery
 Division of Plastic Surgery
 University of Toronto
 Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
 Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Howard W. Jones III, MD

Professor and Chairman
 Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
 Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
 Nashville, Tennessee

Bellal Joseph, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery
 University of Arizona
 Tucson, Arizona

Lauren C. Kane, MD

Associate Surgeon
 Texas Children's Hospital
 Assistant Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics
 Baylor College of Medicine
 Houston, Texas

Jae Y. Kim, MD

Assistant Professor
 Division of Thoracic Surgery
 City of Hope Cancer Center
 Duarte, California

Charles W. Kimbrough, MD

The Hiram C. Polk, Jr., MD Department of Surgery
 University of Louisville School of Medicine
 Louisville, Kentucky

Mahmoud N. Kulaylat, MD

Associate Professor
 Department of Surgery
 Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
 University of New York—Buffalo
 Buffalo, New York

Terry C. Lairmore, MD

Professor of Surgery
 Director, Division of Surgical Oncology
 Baylor Scott and White Healthcare
 Texas A&M University System Health Science Center
 College of Medicine
 Temple, Texas

Christian P. Larsen, MD, DPhil

Dean and Vice President for Health Affairs
 Mason Professor of Transplantation Surgery
 Emory Transplant Center
 Department of Surgery
 Emory University School of Medicine
 Atlanta, Georgia

David W. Larson, MD, MBA

Chair, Colon and Rectal Surgery
Professor of Surgery
Mayo Clinic
Rochester, Minnesota

Mimi Leong, MD, MS

Staff Physician, Section of Plastic Surgery
Operative Care Line
Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Clinical Assistant Professor
Division of Plastic Surgery
Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Lillian F. Liao, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Pediatric Trauma Medical Director
University of Texas Health Science Center—San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

Masha J. Livhits, MD

Clinical Instructor
Section of Endocrine Surgery
University of California—Los Angeles
David Geffen School of Medicine
Los Angeles, California

Michael T. Longaker, MD, MBA, FACS

Deane P. and Louise Mitchell Professor and Vice-Chair in Department
of Surgery
Co-Director of Stanford Institute for Stem Cell Biology and
Regenerative Medicine
Director of Program in Regenerative Medicine
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California

H. Peter Lorenz, MD

Professor of Surgery (Plastic and Reconstructive)
Stanford University School of Medicine
Fellowship Director, Craniofacial Surgery
Service Chief, Plastic Surgery
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford
Stanford, California

Robert R. Lorenz, MD, MBA

Medical Director Payment Reform, Risk and Contracting
Head and Neck Surgery
Laryngotracheal Reconstruction and Oncology
Head and Neck Institute
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, Ohio

Najjia N. Mahmoud, MD

Chief, Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery
University of Pennsylvania Health System
Associate Professor of Surgery
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

David M. Mahvi, MD

James R. Hines Professor of Surgery
Chief, GI and Oncologic Surgery
Department of Surgery
Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine
Chicago, Illinois

Mark A. Malangoni, MD, FACS

Associate Executive Director
American Board of Surgery
Adjunct Professor of Surgery
University of Pennsylvania
Perelman School of Medicine
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Silas T. Marshall, MD

Orthopaedic Traumatology and Fracture Care
Proliance Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine
University of Connecticut
Farmington, Connecticut

R. Shayn Martin, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Department of Surgery
Wake Forest School of Medicine
Executive Director, Critical Care Services
Wake Forest Baptist Health
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Kenneth L. Mattox, MD

Professor and Vice Chairman
Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery
Baylor College of Medicine
Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery
Ben Taub General Hospital
Houston, Texas

Addison K. May, MD

Professor of Surgery and Anesthesiology
Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care
Department of Surgery
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

Mary H. McGrath, MD, MPH, FACS

Professor of Surgery
Division of Plastic Surgery, Department of Surgery
University of California—San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Kelly M. McMasters, MD, PhD

Ben A. Reid, Sr., MD Professor and Chair
The Hiram C. Polk, Jr., MD Department of Surgery
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

Amit Merchea, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Colon and Rectal Surgery
Mayo Clinic
Jacksonville, Florida

J. Wayne Meredith, MD, FACS

Richard T. Meyers Professor and Chair
 Department of Surgery
 Wake Forest School of Medicine
 Chief of Clinical Chairs
 Chief of Surgery
 Wake Forest Baptist Health
 Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Dean J. Mikami, MD

Associate Professor
 General Surgery
 The Ohio State University
 Wexner Medical Center
 Columbus, Ohio

Richard Miller, MD, FACS

Professor of Surgery
 Chief, Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care
 Department of Surgery
 Section of Surgical Sciences
 Vanderbilt University Medical Center
 Nashville, Tennessee

Elizabeth A. Mittendorf, MD, PhD

Associate Professor
 Department of Breast Surgical Oncology
 University of Texas
 MD Anderson Cancer Center
 Houston, Texas

Jason Mizell, MD

Professor of Surgery
 Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery
 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
 Little Rock, Arkansas

Aaron Mohanty, MD

Associate Professor
 Division of Neurosurgery
 Department of Surgery
 University of Texas Medical Branch
 Galveston, Texas

Jeffrey F. Moley, MD

Professor of Surgery
 Chief, Section of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery
 Washington University School of Medicine
 Associate Chief
 Surgical Services
 St. Louis VA Medical Center
 St. Louis, Missouri

Carmen L. Mueller, BSc(H), MD, FRCSC, Med

Assistant Professor of Surgery
 General Surgery
 McGill University
 Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Kevin D. Murphy, MD, MCH, FRCS(PLAST.)

Assistant Professor
 Division of Plastic Surgery
 Department of Surgery
 University of Texas Medical Branch
 Galveston, Texas

Elaine E. Nelson, MD

Medical Director of the Emergency Department
 Regional Medical Center of San Jose
 San Jose, California

David Netscher, MD

Clinical Professor
 Division of Plastic Surgery
 Department of Orthopedic Surgery
 Baylor College of Medicine
 Adjunct Professor of Clinical Surgery
 Weill Medical College
 Cornell University
 Houston, Texas

Leigh Neumayer, MD, MS

Professor and Chair of Surgery
 Department of Surgery
 University of Arizona College of Medicine
 Tucson, Arizona

Robert L. Norris, MD

Professor of Emergency Medicine
 Stanford University Medical Center
 Stanford, California

Brant K. Oelschlager, MD

Professor of Surgery
 Byers Endowed Professor in Esophageal Research
 Department of Surgery
 University of Washington
 Seattle, Washington

Shuab Omer, MD

Assistant Professor
 Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery
 Michael E. DeBakey VAMC
 Baylor College of Medicine
 Houston, Texas

Juan Ortega-Barnett, MD, FAANS

Assistant Professor
 Department of Surgery
 Division of Neurosurgery
 University of Texas Medical Branch
 Galveston, Texas

Joel T. Patterson, MD, FAANS, FACS

Associate Professor and Chief
 Division of Neurosurgery
 Department of Surgery
 University of Texas Medical Branch
 Galveston, Texas

E. Carter Paulson, MD, MSCE

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD

Chief Medical Officer
UW Medicine Vice President for Medical Affairs
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Linda G. Phillips, MD

Truman G. Blocker Distinguished Professor and Chief
Division of Plastic Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Iraklis I. Pipinos, MD

Professor, Vascular Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, Nebraska

Jason H. Pomerantz, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery
Division of Plastic Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of California—San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Russell G. Postier, MD

John A. Schilling Professor and Chairman
Department of Surgery
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Benjamin K. Poulouse, MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Surgery
Department of Surgery
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

Karen L. Powers, MD

Stonegate Plastic Surgery
Lakeland Regional Medical Center
St. Joseph, Michigan

Joe B. Putnam, Jr., MD

Medical Director
Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center
Jacksonville, Florida

Courtney E. Quinn, MD, MS

Assistant Professor
Department of Surgery
Section of Endocrine Surgery
Yale-New Haven Hospital
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, Connecticut

Aparna Rege, MD

Clinical Associate
Surgery
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, North Carolina

Peter Rhee, MD, MPH

Professor of Surgery and Molecular Cellular Biology
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona

Taylor S. Riall, MD, PhD

Professor
Chief
Division of General Surgery and Surgical Oncology
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona

William O. Richards, MD

Professor and Chair
Department of Surgery
University of South Alabama College of Medicine
Mobile, Alabama

Bryan Richmond, MD, MBA, FACS

Professor of Surgery
Section Chief, General Surgery
West Virginia University, Charleston Division
Charleston, West Virginia

Noe A. Rodriguez, MD

Shriners Hospitals for Children
Department of Surgery
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Michael J. Rosen, MD

Professor of Surgery
Lerner College of Medicine
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio

Todd K. Rosengart, MD, FACS

Professor and Chairman
DeBakey Bard Chair of Surgery
Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Ronnie A. Rosenthal, MS, MD

Professor of Surgery
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, Connecticut
Chief, Surgical Service
VA Connecticut Health Care System
West Haven, Connecticut

Ira Rutkow, MD, DrPH

Independent Scholar
New York, New York

Leslie J. Salomone, MD

Clinical Practitioner
Endocrinology and Metabolism
Baptist Health System
Jacksonville, Florida

Warren S. Sandberg, MD, PhD

Professor and Chair
Department of Anesthesiology
Professor of Anesthesiology, Surgery, and Biomedical Informatics
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Nashville, Tennessee

Dominic E. Sanford, MD, MPH

Resident in General Surgery
Department of Surgery
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, Missouri

Robert G. Sawyer, MD, FACS

Department of Surgery
Division of Patient Outcomes
Policy and Population Research
Department of Public Health Sciences
The University of Virginia Health System
Charlottesville, Virginia

Herbert S. Schwartz, MD

Professor and Chairman
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Vanderbilt Orthopaedic Institute
Nashville, Tennessee

Boris Sepesi, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor
Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery
University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas

Puja M. Shah, MD

Department of Surgery
The University of Virginia Health System
Charlottesville, Virginia

Skandan Shanmugan, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Edward R. Sherwood, MD, PhD

Professor
Department of Anesthesiology
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

Michael B. Silva, Jr., MD, FACS

The Fred J. and Dorothy E. Wolma Professor in Vascular Surgery
Professor in Radiology
Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy
Director, Texas Vascular Center
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Vlad V. Simianu, MD, MPH

Resident, Surgery
Research Fellow
Surgical Outcomes Research Center
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Michael J. Sise, MD

Clinical Professor
Department of Surgery
University of California—San Diego Medical Center
Medical Director, Division of Trauma
Scripps Mercy Hospital
San Diego, California

Philip W. Smith, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

Thomas Gillispie Smith III, MD

Assistant Professor
Scott Department of Urology
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Jonathan D. Spicer, MD, PhD, FRCS

Assistant Professor
Division of Thoracic Surgery
Dr. Ray Chiu Distinguished Scientist in Surgical Research
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Ronald Squires, MD

Professor
Department of Surgery
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Michael Stein, MD, FACS

Director of Trauma
Department of General Surgery
Rabin Medical Center—Beilinson Hospital
Petach-Tikva, Israel

Andrew H. Stephen, MD

Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care
Rhode Island Hospital
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island

Ronald M. Stewart, MD

Professor and Chair of Surgery
Dr. Witten B. Russ Endowed Chair in Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

Debra L. Sudan, MD

Professor of Surgery
Department of Surgery
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, North Carolina

Ali Tavakkoli, MD, FACS, FRCS

Associate Professor of Surgery
Minimally Invasive and GI Surgery
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

Ezra N. Teitelbaum, MD

Chief Resident
Department of Surgery
Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine
Chicago, Illinois

James S. Tomlinson, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Surgery
Executive Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
Division of Surgical Oncology
University of California—Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

Courtney M. Townsend, Jr., MD

Professor
Robertson-Poth Distinguished Chair in General Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Margaret C. Tracci, MD, JD

Associate Professor of Surgery
Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery
University of Virginia Medical Center
Charlottesville, Virginia

Richard H. Turnage, MD

Professor of Surgery
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Little Rock, Arkansas

Robert Udelsman, MD, MBA

William H. Carmalt Professor of Surgery and Oncology
Chairman of Surgery
Department of Surgery
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, Connecticut

Marshall M. Urist, MD

Professor of Surgery
Department of Surgery
Division of Surgical Oncology
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Cheryl E. Vaiani, PhD

Clinical Ethics Consultant, Ethics Service
Institute for the Medical Humanities
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Selwyn M. Vickers, MD, FACS

Senior Vice President and Dean
School of Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Graham G. Walmsley, BA

Medical Scientist Training Program Student
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California

Rebekah White, MD

Associate Professor
Department of Surgery
Duke University School of Medicine
Durham, North Carolina

Piotr Witkowski, MD

Associate Professor and Director of Islet Transplant
Department of Surgery
Division of Transplantation
University of Chicago
Pritzker School of Medicine
Chicago, Illinois

Daniel K. Witmer, MD

Resident
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
University of Connecticut
Farmington, Connecticut

James C. Yang, MD

Senior Investigator, Surgery Branch
Center for Cancer Research
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland

Robert B. Yates, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Surgery
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Michael W. Yeh, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery and Medicine (Endocrinology)
Chief
Section of Endocrine Surgery
University of California—Los Angeles
David Geffen School of Medicine
Los Angeles, California

Heather Yeo, MD, MHS

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Assistant Professor of Healthcare Policy and Research
Department of Surgery
NYP-Weill Cornell Medical Center
New York, New York

A SCORE OF SCORES

This 20th or “Score” edition of *Sabiston’s Textbook of Surgery* represents both a culmination and the continuation of the record of the 19 preceding editions, each of which scored their goal of serving as surgery’s English language evidence-based reference work. The tradition of providing expansive update information, including detailed exposition of surgical pathophysiology to assist the surgeon in his/her adaptation of generic data for an innovative solution of an atypical clinical problem, has been maintained in this edition. The first two sections of this edition characterize, in detail, the systemic and organ specific responses to injury, describe perioperative management (including anesthesia), and cover the diagnosis and treatment of surgical infections and other surgical complications. The third section is devoted to trauma and critical care in recognition of the fact that surgical intervention is in itself a controlled form of trauma and that critical care expertise is essential to optimize surgical outcomes. Those initial three sections also contain chapters on ethics and professionalism, critical analysis of outcomes, patient safety issues, surgical aspects of mass casualty incidents, and a preview of the potential benefits of emerging technologies such as informatics, electronics, and robotics. Collectively the information in those sections prepares the reader to evaluate and use the current best-evidence-based recommendations for the management of surgical disease of organ systems and tissues as presented in the subsequent nine sections. The last section consists of seven chapters in which essential subspecialty-specific principles are enunciated and related to general surgery practice to complete the picture of surgery as a medical discipline.

This new edition, which is designed to meet the information format preferences of medical students, residents, fellows, and practicing surgeons of all ages, is available in both print and electronic format including that for e-readers such as Kindle.

Additionally, this edition has a website called Expert Consult (www.expertconsult.com), which enables the reader to obtain enhanced content such as interactive images that can be used to generate slideshow presentations and annotated test-yourself material, and, with variable magnification, optimize visualization of specific image details.

Dr. Townsend, the editorial descendant of Christopher, Davis, and Sabiston, and his associate editors have generated an effective mix of authoritative senior authors, with voices heard in previous editions and thoroughly updated in this volume, and carefully chosen rising stars to promote clinically useful understanding of the principles guiding surgical intervention. In the aggregate this textbook promotes the concept of “precision surgery,” which has developed during the eight decades since 1936 when Frederick Christopher published the first edition of his *Textbook of Surgery* from which this volume has descended. As such, this new edition will enhance the reader’s ability to optimize the diagnosis of surgical disease and the treatment of surgical patients. In short, this new “Score” edition has scored again by extending the reign of *Sabiston’s Textbook of Surgery* as the “...definitive treatise on surgical practice” as cited by a perceptive reviewer of the 18th edition in 2008.

Basil A. Pruitt, Jr., MD, FACS, FCCM, MCCM

Clinical Professor of Surgery

Betty and Bob Kelso Distinguished Chair in Burn and
Trauma Surgery

Dr. Ferdinand P. Herff Chair in Surgery
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Dries DJ. Book review. *Sabiston’s Textbook of Surgery: The biological basis of modern surgical practice*, 18th edition. Shock 2008; 29: 650.

PREFACE

Surgery continues to evolve as new technology, techniques, and knowledge are incorporated into the care of surgical patients. The 20th edition of *Sabiston Textbook of Surgery* reflects these exciting changes and new knowledge. We have incorporated more than 50 new authors to ensure that the most current information is presented. This new edition has revised and enhanced the current chapters to reflect these changes.

The primary goal of this new edition is to remain the most thorough, useful, readable, and understandable textbook

presenting the principles and techniques of surgery. It is designed to be equally useful to students, trainees, and experts in the field. We are committed to maintaining this tradition of excellence begun in 1936. Surgery, after all, remains a discipline in which the knowledge and skill of a surgeon combine for the welfare of our patients.

Courtney M. Townsend, Jr., MD

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Our authors, respected authorities in their fields and busy physicians and surgeons, all did an outstanding job in sharing their wealth of knowledge.

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