

# Preface to the Second Edition

Pathophysiology describes the mechanisms which lead from the primary cause via individual malfunctions to a clinical picture and its possible complications. Knowledge of these mechanisms serves patients when the task is to develop a suitable therapy, alleviate symptoms, and avert imminent resultant damage caused by the disease.

Our aim in writing this *Atlas of Pathophysiology* was to address students of medicine, both prior to and during their clinical training, and also qualified doctors as well as their co-workers in the caring and therapeutic professions and to provide them with a clear overview in words and pictures of the core knowledge of modern pathophysiology and aspects of pathochemistry.

The book begins with the fundamentals of the cell mechanism and abnormalities thereof as well as cell division, cell death, tumor growth, and aging. It then covers a wide range of topics, from abnormalities of the heat and energy balance, via the pathomechanisms of diseases of the blood, lungs, kidneys, gastrointestinal tract, heart and circulation, and of the metabolism, including endocrinal abnormalities, diseases of skeletal muscle, the senses, and the peripheral and central nervous system. Following a short review of the fundamentals of physiology, the causes, course, symptoms, and arising complications of disease processes are described along with, if necessary, the possibilities of therapeutic intervention.

The book has met the interest of numerous readers and thus a second edition has become necessary. The new edition provided us with the opportunity to critically review the former edition and to include new knowledge. We continue to appreciate any critical comments and ideas communicated to us from the reader-ship.

The second edition of the *Atlas* would again have been inconceivable without the great commitment, amazing creativity and outstanding expertise of the graphic designers, Ms. Astrid Rothenburger and Mr. Rüdiger Gay. We would like to extend our warmest gratitude to them for their renewed productive co-operation. Our thanks also go to our publishers, in particular Ms. Rachel Swift und Ms. Elisabeth Kurz for their exceptional skill and enthusiasm in editing and producing the 2nd edition of the *Atlas*. Ms. Katharina Völker did a great job during the updating of the subject index, Ms. Tanja Loch during proofreading.

We hope that readers continue to find in this *Atlas* what they are looking for, that they find the text and pictures understandable, and that they enjoy using this book throughout their studies and their working life.

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