For many years I have taught and attended presentations on phacoemulsification complication management. At each course it appeared that my colleagues and I could never learn enough about this subject. However, there was repeatedly a deficiency in the method of instruction. It was often fragmented. I assumed this was brought about by the very nature of the process of dealing with complications management. The associated shock and surprise when challenged with these mishaps instigates an urgent action strategy rather than an attitude of careful analysis, then action.

I therefore decided to attempt to approach this topic with improved organization and in-depth analysis. My approach is to understand where problems may occur by first envisioning the normal circumstance. Mindful of normal procedures to avoid, then recognize, and finally manage a myriad of potential complications becomes a less overwhelming task.

To accomplish this goal I have invited a number of authors to contribute to this textbook. All are the finest educators that I have had the privilege with which to work. They are accomplished as surgeons, researchers, and writers. All have given their knowledge altruistically, with their only goal being to improve both the quality of surgery and the likelihood for successful outcomes.

Finally, to assist us in the process of visualizing many theoretical concepts, I have enlisted the assistance of one of the most superb medical illustrators in our field. Through accurate illustrations we have attempted to refine our understanding of the many dilemmas a surgeon might encounter. As an adjunct, we have tried to formulate a more concrete method of understanding some new concepts.

This book reflects the experience of more than 3 years of research and development. It is my fervent desire that the information in this textbook has merit to the reader. If I can help to lessen the impact or improve the surgical outcome in a potentially challenging problem, I have accomplished my desired goal.

I, as well as the authors of this text, am an educator. As such, I place great importance on textbooks of this type. Please read, enjoy, and learn from the ensuing material.

William J. Fishkind, M.D., F.A.C.S.