

Jesús Castiñeiras Fernández

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TRANSLATIONAL
ANATOMY - SURGICAL

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This book is the result of research conducted by Senior Professor Don Jesús Castiñeiras Fernández in the framework of a collaboration contract for optimization of urologic pathology resources signed under articles 83.1 of Organic Law 6/2001 on universities and 35 of Law 14/2011 on science, technology and innovation between the Research Foundation of the University of Seville and the Joaquín Albarrán Foundation.

*To my wife and daughter, the “two pillars” of my life;
“La Zarina”, the future of our family;
And my parents, Jesús and “Isabelita”, who brought me into this world.*



Foreword

The *Prostate, Translational Anatomy – Surgical*, is the most comprehensive, contemporary book on this topic and for that reason, it is the definitive text. Frankly I have never seen a book like this. The author provides a detailed description of the anatomy at the surgical, gross anatomical, and microscopic levels documented by elegant illustrations. In addition, by providing in-depth historical vignettes describing the lives of the individuals who made these discoveries, he adds to the richness of the readers' understanding of their importance. Why are there no other books like this? Because the author is unique. He is an historian, medical author, surgical innovator, scholar of histopathology and anatomy, and the consummate teacher. He wants the reader to understand this subject from all perspectives.

This book will be a genuine delight for the scholar who is interested in the fine points of anatomy. Through the use of histopathologic sections, diagrams, and photographs, they will be

treated to a detailed description at every level. Also, it will not be necessary for them to perform dissections in cadavers, because the author provides detailed descriptions and photographs of his own excellent dissections. He also provides helpful schematic diagrams and models, which make it easier to understand the relationship of vital structures to adjacent organs.

In each chapter, the published literature is extensively reviewed and carefully documented, especially the opposing and often contradictory observations of the past. The author then provides his own opinions based on his clinical observations during surgery, cadaveric and autopsy dissections, and histopathology.

For me, one of the most interesting sections of the book was the discussion of one of the great mysteries in the field of prostate cancer surgery. In 1944, in his masterful book on the Pathology of the Prostate, Professor Salvador Gil Vernet from the University of Barcelona identified the location of the cavernous nerves outside the capsule of the prostate and their association with adjacent vessels, which he termed the neurovascular bundle. In subsequent publications, he expanded on his belief that these nerves innervated the musculature that is responsible for the maintenance of passive urinary control. Unfortunately, the world's urologic community was unaware of these contributions and because all men were impotent following complete removal of the prostate, it was universally and erroneously believed that the cavernous nerves ran through the prostate making it impossible to preserve sexual function in men who underwent surgery for the treatment of prostate cancer. In 1982, when Pieter Donker and I independently rediscovered the location of the cavernous nerves during dissections of the pelvic plexus in a still-born male fetus, we too were unaware of this prior discovery and did not learn of it until a decade later. In this book, the author details the chronology of these events and unfolds the mystery of why it took so long for the world to know.

This book is an encyclopedia of the anatomy of the prostate and surrounding structures and is the definitive resource for scholars who desire to learn the detailed anatomical interrelationships. It also provides a valuable and enjoyable historical record of the lives of the many individuals who made these discoveries and what motivated them to pursue this career.

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