

## Preface

INTEREST IN THE ATRIAL SEPTAL DEFECT (ASD) and patent foramen ovals (PFOs) was sparked in the mid-1970s when Terry D. King, MD, an interventional cardiologist, and Noel Mills, MD, a cardiac surgeon, performed the first transcatheter closure of an ASD on a 17-year-old female. Since that time, interventional congenital cardiologists have been on a mission: to create devices and procedures that enable physicians to close defects in the atrial septum as effectively as our colleagues in surgery do, and of course without the morbidity of open surgery.

When Steven Korn from Cardiotext Publishing approached us to write a book, we were not sure what to write about. We have edited a few books in the past related to different topics in congenital and structural heart disease intervention. But while we were discussing the project, we were surprised to realize that there is no book dedicated to the atrial septum at all. Therefore, the idea of writing such a book was born.

We have assembled the best of the best to contribute to this exciting project, organizing their work in four sections that comprehensively present the most important areas of knowledge for today's practitioners.

Part I discusses anatomy, pathophysiology, and natural history. We believe that every physician treating patients with ASDs and PFOs should have full knowledge of the anatomy, pathophysiology, and natural history of the disease process. Part II addresses imaging of the septum and the assessment of the defects, reviewing all of the imaging modalities, from transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography to computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging of the septum. Part III focuses on the technical aspects of closure of ASDs and PFOs. Each chapter discusses in detail specific technical details encountered in clinical practice. And part IV examines the devices available to

interventional cardiologists. We made every attempt to include all available devices. If a device was not mentioned, this was not intentional. Also, we were as careful as possible to be fair when providing details about the most commonly used devices.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this book, and we know that you will glean information that will help you take care of your patients.

We would like to thank all of our patients. It is from them that we collect images for teaching ourselves to be better doctors.

Finally, we would like to give a big thank you to Steven Korn, Mike Crouchet, and Caitlin Crouchet with Cardiotext Publishing and to Zan Ceeley with Trio Bookworks for keeping us on time and providing us with the best support to achieve this project.

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