

## Preface

When Thomas Scherb, MD, from Thieme Publishers approached us for a German textbook on mammography, we readily accepted this opportunity.

We deemed it prudent not to rely exclusively on the knowledge and experience from Nijmegen, The Netherlands, but to use a broader basis by including experts from other mammographic centers in the Netherlands and Germany. We wanted to create a short new textbook on clinical mammography.

Based on the anatomy and pathology of the breast, the radiological findings are presented plainly and clearly, with emphasis on instruction as found in a teaching book rather than on completeness as expected from a reference text. We have tried to accommodate the underlying physics and the importance of positioning in mammography.

Mammography is one of the best-perfected conventional radiographic methods. Even after the advent of newer techniques, such as sonography (ultrasound) and MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), mammography remains the most important radiological examination of the breast. Radiological imaging of the breast is primarily directed at discovering breast carcinoma, which forms the core of this book. Nonimaging aspects of breast carcinoma, such as clinical diagnosis, treatment, epidemiology, and risk factors, are also discussed. Certain details are covered in more than one chapter, which should make it easier to study each chapter separately.

Mammographic screening is discussed in addition to diagnostic mammography. After the screening trials in Nijmegen and Utrecht in 1975, national screening began in the Netherlands in 1988. The LRCB (National Expert and Training Center for Breast Cancer Screening) was

established in Nijmegen for this purpose. Besides their commitment to scientific research, LRCB experts conduct technical quality control of all 60 screening centers in the Netherlands, as well as postgraduate training of all radiologists, pathologists, and radiologic technologists involved in national breast cancer screening. The experience of the LRCB is incorporated into this book.

We would like to thank all contributors for their cooperation, especially Horst Aichinger, PhD, who coordinated Chapter 5. We are grateful for the support of the Stichting Vroege Opsporing Kanker Oost-Nederland (SVOKON). K. Siekman and W. Veldkamp, both from LRCB in Nijmegen, provided the digitization of the mammographic images. Cooperation with the publisher and its co-workers on this edition was as good as it was for the German edition; special thanks go to Clifford Bergman, MD, Ms. Annie Hollins, and Gert A. Krüger for their support. F. Hartmann provided the instructive illustrations and graphics. When the publisher decided on an English edition of this book, we updated the text. Ms. Annelies Schef and Johan Schouten supported us in the translation of some of the chapters. Peter Winter, MD, was responsible for the final English version.

The German edition was dedicated to Professor W.H.A.M. Penn, former head of the Department of Radiology of the University Hospital St. Radboud, Nijmegen, the Netherlands, and a great advocate of screening for breast carcinoma in the Netherlands, and to the late professor W. Höffken, Cologne, Germany, one of the pioneers of mammography. We dedicate this English edition to our wives.

Nijmegen, Fall 2001

The Editors