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## Preface

Since the introduction of the surgical robot into the armamentarium of urological surgeons, there has been a rapid adoption of the robotic approach to urological procedures. Until recently, prostate and kidney surgery have been the primary techniques to which robotic surgery has been implemented. Over the last few years there has been an increase in robotic surgery for the management of bladder pathology, particularly bladder cancer and radical cystectomy. While the acceptance has been much slower than what was witnessed with radical prostatectomy, many surgeons are now embarking on robot-assisted radical cystectomy (RARC) and other surgical procedures of the bladder.

In *Robotic Surgery of the Bladder*, the reader can expect to benefit from the shared experience of established experts in the field of robotic surgery and bladder cancer. Topics contained within the text range from a review of the history of minimally invasive surgery of the bladder to contemporary issues such as cost. Early in the text, the principles of bladder cancer surgery are reviewed and set the bar for all surgeons planning on performing RARC. Chapters such as these reflect the comprehensive nature of the text.

With a large portion dedicated to preparation and technique, we expect that surgeons interested in moving from robot-assisted radical prostatectomy to radical cystectomy will find the detailed technical descriptions and accompanying videos to be very useful. Technical nuances including, female cystectomy, nerve sparing, and pelvic lymphadenectomy will be covered, among others. Three chapters cover urinary diversion and different approaches to one of the more complex aspects of radical cystectomy. The authors of the technical chapters are all well known within the field of robot-assisted radical cystectomy and provide the reader with a collective experience that spans more than 8 years and resulted in established reproducible steps.

Several chapters are dedicated to getting started and preparation and are of particular importance when setting oneself up for success. Two chapters covering perioperative outcomes and complications complement these sections as setup and outcomes are intimately related. Oncological outcomes, one of the most important metrics used to rate success following radical cystectomy, are extensively reviewed in Chap. 14. Surgery for benign disorders of the bladder is also covered. In order to present a balanced text covering robotic surgery of the bladder, criticisms and concerns that have been raised in the

past are also thoughtfully reviewed. Finally, a discussion of future directions can be found in the end and demonstrates the limitless possibilities.

We expect that you will find this book to be both informative and instructional and look forward to your contribution to the field of robotic surgery of the bladder.

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