Preface

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Editor

To be a specialist of rare disorders is a recurring challenge for the general thoracic surgeon. This age encourages the infinite expectation of perfection in those who seek our advice and, not least, in us. Chest wall disorders demand our attention because early diagnosis, complete resection, and durable, pain-free reconstruction are just as important to our patients as in the common diseases we treat, yet must be accomplished on a very narrow base of knowledge, experience, and evidence. For uncommon clinical problems of the chest wall, we more often find ourselves in need of silent study and our colleagues' collective wisdom. We are then fortunate to discover in this present collection reviews by experts to guide us in difficult clinical decisions. I owe a debt of gratitude to each

contributor for including the pearls and pitfalls of clinical practice that enhance a review to the level of essential information. And when we emerge from silence in need of further communication, we know we find in each author a willing advisor; luck has it that even calls to Denmark and Russia remain affordable.

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