To our families:
Mitra, Leila, and Sara Ardehali
and
Abbie, Maddie, and Atlas Chen
The concept of Cardiac Surgery: Safeguards and Pitfalls in Cardiac Surgery came to me over 35 years ago. I wanted to provide a tool to help surgical residents master the techniques of cardiac surgery while avoiding the pitfalls that often result in suboptimal or even fatal outcomes. After five years of preparation, the work was completed and published in late 1987. Many prominent cardiac surgeons from Europe and the United States reviewed each chapter and made useful suggestions, thus benefitting the work with their vast experiences.

The book would not have been completed without the support and invaluable encouragement of the late Professor Gerry Brom of Leiden. The superb “telling” illustrations by Joanie Livermore and Timothy Hengst have been the hallmark of the work. The success of the book is reflected in the present (fifth) edition and the fact that it has been translated into Portuguese, Japanese, and Chinese. It has been gratifying to visit operating rooms in many countries and see a copy of the book or photocopies of its various chapters there. My partner and colleague of close to 30 years, Dr. Colleen Sintek, was my coauthor on the second, third, and fourth editions, and I am very much indebted to her and grateful for her support.

My good fortune does not end here. For this fifth edition, I have been blessed to have Dr. Abbas Ardehali, professor of surgery, David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles, an esteemed friend and colleague, accept the baton of responsibility to ensure the continued success of the book. Dr. Jonathan Chen, professor of surgery and chief of pediatric cardiovascular surgery at University of Washington, Seattle, has been gracious to edit and update the Congenital section. I am very impressed with their contributions and am grateful for their efforts in bringing the fifth edition of Cardiac Surgery: Safeguards and Pitfalls in Cardiac Surgery to fruition.

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Khonsari’s Cardiac Surgery: Safeguards and Pitfalls in Operative Technique is a unique book in the field of cardiac surgery. It details the important technical aspects of cardiac surgery in a concise, readable, and illustrative format. It also highlights technical misadventures and offers preventive and corrective measures. It serves as a great resource for the novice and/or trainee as well as the seasoned surgeon.

The popularity of this book since the first edition has been due to Dr. Khonsari’s unmatched surgical intuition, wisdom, judgment, and attention to details, as is evident throughout this book. Illustrative and detailed figures have been and continue to be an important feature that emphasizes salient points. Dr. Sintek’s collaboration on the previous two editions has only enhanced these qualities of this popular book. We, the present editors, have tried very hard to maintain the character of this book: emphasizing technical aspects of cardiac surgery, highlighting pitfalls, striving for brevity, and using clear illustrations to convey the message to the readers.

Organizationally, the first two sections remain dedicated to adult cardiac surgery, while the third section covers pediatric cardiac surgery. All chapters have been updated, new illustrations have been added, and some of the illustrations have been colorized for greater clarity. Additionally, new topics have been added to reflect the advances in the field: endovascular procedures, transcatheter aortic valve replacement, new approaches to the Norwood reconstruction, repair of Ebstein anomaly, and alternative anatomic repairs of congenitally corrected transposition.

The format of this book follows the previous editions: the technical pitfalls are denoted by a hazard sign 🟢. The mechanism of technical errors and the techniques to prevent and correct these errors are emphasized. Important points are highlighted by special Nota Bene 📝 notations.

Khonsari’s Cardiac Surgery: Safeguards and Pitfalls in Operative Technique has long been considered a great reference text in technical aspects of cardiac surgery. We have worked hard to maintain the core strengths of this book: a concise, illustrative, and focused description of techniques in cardiac surgery. We believe that with the many improvements implemented in this fifth edition, it will continue to be a valuable resource for cardiac surgery trainees and senior surgeons alike.

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Los Angeles, California
June 2016

Jonathan Chen, MD
Seattle, Washington
June 2016
First and foremost, Dr. Chen and I would like to thank Dr. Khonsari and Dr. Sintek for their many contributions to the field of cardiac surgery and the legacy they have left with this book. I am privileged to have been trained by them, and I remain grateful for the imparted wisdom, support, and importantly their friendship. I would also like to thank Dr. Peyman Benharash of the Division of Cardiac Surgery at UCLA for his contributions to endovascular procedure topics and many helpful suggestions in other chapters.

Finally, we would like to thank the editorial staff at Wolters Kluwer, particularly Brendan Huffman and Keith Donnellan, for their assistance and dedication. We also would like to thank Lik Kwong and Carolina Hrejsa from BodyScientific for their tireless work to create and update the artwork in this new edition. We believe that the fifth edition carries on the tradition of its predecessors while delivering the most current and concise reference book on techniques and pitfalls in the field of cardiac surgery.

Abbas Ardehali
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