Foreword

During the past decades our knowledge of laser surgery has undergone dramatic changes. New avenues of thinking have been opened and this has given patients with different types of lesions new treatment possibilities. Exciting improvements have been shown, but also the problems and side effects of treating pigmented Asian skin with lasers and light sources. Asian skin differs from Caucasian skin because of the higher amount of epidermal melanosomes and the higher level of melanin production.

Around 50% of the world population has darker skin types (Fitzpatrick skin types III–VI) and we need to learn more about how to treat them and how to avoid side effects like post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation. People travel and move around the world more than ever and all of us physicians need to have a higher understanding of the problems in treating darker skin types. This book will give you tips and tricks to avoid side effects and obtain better results.

This book is highly needed as, to my knowledge, there are not many books written regarding this subject. It reflects the tremendous progress in the field of laser dermatology. There is a growing number of skin lesions that are usually best treated with lasers or light sources. Research continues and new developments will allow us to improve patient care. This book will be of great value for dermatologists, plastic surgeons, pediatricians and general practitioners who will benefit from the many hours of clinical wisdom that have been distilled to produce it. The well-informed practicing dermatologist, using laser or light sources with skill and good judgment, can help solidify the image and substance of laser medicine and dermatology. I congratulate Dr Yong-Kwang Tay, FRCP and his co-authors and thank them for their devoted work.

To have a healthy-looking skin is a realistic dream for us all, no matter what skin type!

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