To the patients who will benefit from our evolving understanding of surgical indications, techniques, and complications.
I first met Dr. Bridwell in the early 1980s at a spine meeting in Minneapolis, where we were introduced by our good friend and host, Dr. Robert Winter. I was a newcomer to St. Louis and Dr. Bridwell was thinking about moving to the area from Cincinnati. We had a conversation at that meeting, which led to more exchanges afterwards and planted the seeds for a lifelong friendship.

Eventually, Dr. Bridwell moved to St. Louis where I had the pleasure of closely following his career. I learned that his dream was to establish a superb academic center for the treatment of spinal deformities and to provide education at a global level. During the quarter of a century that I have known him, I have seen Dr. Bridwell realize this dream with great success and benefited from his contributions both as a colleague and as a friend. In that time, Dr. Bridwell has not only created a world class institution for the treatment of spinal disorders, he has done an extraordinary job of providing ongoing research activities and creating an educational environment from which everyone can benefit. This textbook stands as a testament to his commendable efforts to achieve these goals.

The first edition of this book quickly became a classic, filling the gap of resources needed for the education of spine surgeons. Prior to this publication, not a single book existed to address all aspects of spine surgery. Within this rapidly expanding field, the need for a standard and reliable resource became even greater. This book thus covers a spectrum of topics from the simple to the most complex, dealing with all regions of the spine from occiput to pelvis, offering diagnoses for all ages from very young children to adults, and sharing all current and up-to-date surgical approaches and techniques.

Dr. Bridwell and his respected associate editors and authors have taken every measure to produce an outstanding work addressing all basic principles and techniques of modern spine surgery. The chapters are detailed yet simultaneously to the point. They are also well illustrated and supplemented by useful references for those seeking additional information.

The third edition of *The Textbook of Spinal Surgery* represents significant revisions to accommodate fresh and relevant information on new outcomes, technology, and clinical research. The material covers knowledge needed for a readership comprising medical students, allied health professionals, residents and fellows to pediatric orthopaedic surgeons and spine care specialists.

The editors and authors of this publication stand at the forefront of the field. They are to be congratulated for consolidating the topic of spine surgery into one readily accessible textbook, a reference source that should appear in all libraries and on the shelves of those who provide care for patients with spinal disorders.

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In this, the third edition of *The Textbook of Spinal Surgery*, we attempt to cover all important etiologies (deformity, degenerative, traumatic and neoplastic) of pediatric and adult spinal surgery, as well as all pathologies from the skull to the sacrum. It has now been 13 years since we published the second edition. In the first edition we had 45 chapters and 60 contributors. In the second edition we had 130 chapters and 182 contributors. In this edition we have 156 chapters and 60 contributors.

As in the first two editions, we have a blend of orthopaedic and neurosurgical colleagues from all over the world contributing chapters.

With this edition, we have more heavily peer-reviewed the chapters. Each chapter was reviewed by an associate and a senior editor before publication. Most chapters were returned to the author for revision before submitting to the publisher. Therein, we believe these chapters will impress you with their quality and excellence.

Rather than bombard the reader with a 200-list bibliography, we decided to condense the reference list to a more manageable size. Therein, with each chapter we attempted to reference a small number of classic articles and otherwise the most current and pertinent ones.

Since the second edition, spinal surgery has grown tremendously. More surgeons are specializing in spinal surgery and training with fellowships than was the case when the second edition was published. Neurosurgeons are also far more contributory to the field than was the case many years ago. We feel this will be reflected in the current edition.

We are also in the process of producing several techniques videos which we feel will be helpful to the readers. The topics include adult thoracic vertebral column resection for scoliosis deformity, posterior vertebral column resection, cervical corpectomy and reconstruction, disc arthroplasty in the cervical spine, and extracavitary metastatic tumor resection and reconstruction.

As with the past editions, this textbook will be of great value to medical students, select physical therapists and physiatrists who are particularly interested in the study of spinal pathology and surgical treatment, orthopaedic and neurosurgery residents and fellows and practicing orthopaedic surgeons and neurosurgeons.

Keith H. Bridwell, MD
Ronald L. DeWald, MD
As stated in the preface, our associate editors have done a tremendous amount of work, peer-reviewing all chapters before they were submitted to the publisher. I would like to particularly thank those associate editors, Peter D. Angevine, Jacob M. Buchowski, Charles C. Edwards II, Christopher L. Hamill, Timothy R. Kuklo, Ronald A. Lehman Jr., Lawrence G. Lenke, Scott J. Luhmann, John M. Rhee, and K. Daniel Riew; their wives, Anne Angevine, Katherine Buchowski, Ann Edwards, Vikki Hamill, Linda Kuklo, Marina Lehman, Beth Lenke, Jan Luhmann, Marcia Ko, and Mary Riew; and their families for allowing them to devote extra time to advancing the knowledge of spinal surgery for all students of the field.

We would very much like to thank Terri Iffrig. She was the managing editor for the second edition for which her job was twice as big as it was for the first edition and for this edition it was twice as big again. Without her hard work and organization, the textbook would never have come to fruition.

Also, we would like to thank the Lippincott Williams & Wilkins staff, including Robert Hurley, David Murphy, Elise Paxson, Eileen Wolfberg, and Sarah Granlund, for working so hard with us on this project.

As with the other two editions, Dr. Bridwell thanks and acknowledges Dr. Ronald L. DeWald for his guidance and teachings over the years. Most of the associate editors and a very high percentage of the contributing authors were either trained by Dr. DeWald or by the people he trained. We thank him for his guidance and inspiration.

Keith H. Bridwell, MD
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