Preface

When a physician examines a patient at the bedside using the physical exam alone they are forced to rely on their "mind's eye" to *imagine* what organs or tissue below the skin that could be the culprit of their patient's ailment. With the advent of portable bedside ultrasound, physicians are now able to *image* the organs and tissue directly at the point-of-care, creating an immediate impact on patient care. Harnessing this technology transforms the doctor–patient relationship from the time of Hippocrates to the modern day. Physician-performed imaging results in greater clinical self-reliance, reducing unnecessary CT scans, thereby causing less radiation exposure.

The *Atlas of Emergency Ultrasound* is designed to give the busy practicing clinician a reference tool of positives. Each organ is represented with common and not so common pathological entities one encounters when practicing emergency ultrasound. This pathology is clearly outlined by line-art, with detailed captions drawing the reader to salient points. This is *not* meant to be an exhaustive didactic reference, or even an introduction to obtaining ultrasound windows. This book picks up where introductory coursework ends. There already exist plenty of references designed to teach the basics of image acquisition and ultrasound physics. This book assumes the reader has already begun to incorporate ultrasound into practice, and is now ready to take those skills further by focusing on pathology.

While the focus is on *emergency* ultrasound, there are other specialties that would likely benefit from the pathology found in this text. Physicians who practice primary care will likely find many relevant images to learn from especially with regards to the gallbladder, pelvis, and vasculature, while physicians in the ICU setting will find the cardiac, DVT, and lung chapters of particular interest. Furthermore, surgeons looking for pathology related to the hepato-biliary system, soft tissue, and vasculature will find information relevant to their practice. Finally, as medical students are expected to perform more and more ultrasound at the bedside of their patients on rotations in the emergency department, the ICU, surgery, and Obst/Gyn, they too will find helpful images to help them perform well on these clerkships.

Ultimately, Hippocrates would be proud of the physician who can utilize any simple bedside tool to elaborate on the physical exam, but only if that tool would result in "first do no harm."