Preface

This is a book for beginners as well as for those who perform trichoscopy in their everyday practice. It is written by trichoscopy enthusiasts, and I am sure dermatologists who learn this method will begin to love it, just as we do.

I use trichoscopy in my daily clinical practice, just as radiologists use ultrasonography or cardiologists make use of electrocardiograms. A world without trichoscopy is difficult for me to imagine. I could not agree more with the statement of Antonella Tosti that diagnosing hair and scalp disorders without trichoscopy is a professional practice gap.

It is difficult to establish when trichoscopy was born. Was it the 1993 publication by Steven Kossard and Sam Zagarella, who described the dermoscopic white dots in cicatricial alopecia? Was it the 2004 article by Giuseppe Micali's group, who showed that videodermatoscopy enhances diagnostic capability in hair loss? Was it the initial work of the dermatologists from Italy, Japan, and Poland who developed the first standards, diagnostic criteria, and algorithms? Or was it the moment when trichoscopy received its name, in 2006?

Whatever the date, trichoscopy is still in its childhood, and there is still much to learn in the great field of hair and scalp disorders. Recent years have brought multiple results from original studies, new case descriptions, and analytic reviews, as well as know-how derived from unpublished but widely shared experience. Also, as I write these words, trichoscopic knowledge is developing rapidly worldwide. I am sure readers of this book will make their own, new discoveries, and I encourage everyone to share their experience with others in this developing field of knowledge. If you have any suggestions or questions regarding this book, feel free to drop me an e-mail (lidia.rudnicka@euderm.eu).

I hope this atlas will help you in your daily practice. Keeping in mind that we find only what we look for, I hope this book helps you define what you are seeking in the field of hair and scalp diseases.

Lidia Rudnicka