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## Preface

Being a Cardiology fellow is, no doubt, one of the most daunting commitments one can make as a physician. The time- and stress-intensive work schedule is followed by long hours of study, in an ever-expanding field, making it occasionally quite challenging to master both the classical teachings and their cutting-edge developments. Maybe the most useful tool for making sense of the profusion of guidelines, textbooks, and medical papers, is to draw tables (which show the different entities at a glance, while underscoring both their similarities and their differences) and schematics (true to the adage that a picture is worth a thousand words). It has been the author's intent to provide these tools to those who take an interest in Cardiology, whether as fellows, or as a matter of general medical information. The vast majority of the tables and figures are original, and, in conjunction with the concisely conceived text, aim to provide a comprehensive image of each condition, while duly reviewing the all-important specific details. Every effort has been made to ground the text in the existing practice guidelines, as well as in the latest medical research. Inevitably, however, some of the information will already have been updated by the time the reader uses this book. The relevant medical trials and resources have been outlined both in the text, and in the suggested bibliography, to facilitate following up on the issues of interest.

It is the author's sincere hope that this book should serve as a valuable tool in the quest for a wide-ranging, yet precise knowledge of cardiology.