MOHS SURGERY is a highly effective technique for the surgical removal of most types of cutaneous and oral pharyngeal cancers. The procedure allows for the precise and complete removal of cancers while maximizing the preservation of surrounding normal tissue. Through the presentation and orientation of the specimens' complete surgical margin on pathology slides, the location of tumor foci and other relevant findings can be correlated with their locations on the surgical wound. The ability to create perfect slides for histological examination lies at the core of effective Mohs surgery. This procedure has the highest cure rate among alternative cancer treatment modalities for the cancers for which it is utilized. This book describes the methods the Mohs surgeon-pathologist and Mohs technician use to optimize the Mohs technique and produce the highest-quality slides and highest cure rates possible, and it breaks new ground in describing techniques that the Mohs technician uses in the lab.

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MOHS SURGERY
AND
HISTOPATHOLOGY:
BEYOND THE
FUNDAMENTALS

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I hope this book will eventually find its way to the bookshelf equivalent of the “dustbin of history,” as targeted immunotherapy and other evolving cancer treatments replace the surgical model employed today. Even a procedure as elegant as Mohs surgery will find its rightful place alongside other outdated surgical techniques. I hope the transformation happens in my lifetime.

To Ruth Gross and Edith Chepin: two peas in a pod enjoying their tenth decade of life.

KGG

To Barry Goldsmith, for patiently and thoughtfully teaching me Mohs surgery.
To the many Mohs surgery course participants for showing me how to better practice and teach our craft.
And most assuredly to Robert and Madeline, now gone, and Diedre and our sons, Adam and Steven, sine qua nons, for their boundless love, encouragement, support, and humor, which gives foundation, perspective, joy, and contentment to my life.

HKS

Our dear friend and colleague, Terry O’Grady, who died during the preparation of this book, will be greatly missed.

KGG and HKS
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