
Preface

As in previous editions, our purpose in writing this book has been to provide a clear and concise introduction to the principles of histology, the microanatomy of tissues and organs. We have emphasized the relationship between structure and function to make the text more meaningful, more easily understood, and more relevant to other basic sciences. We have made the assumption that most of the people using this text intend to go into the health professions or biology, and we have attempted to lay the groundwork for the later study and recognition of differences that exist between normal and diseased or repaired tissue (pathology). Before one can understand the changes that occur during injury, healing, and disease, it is necessary to develop a clear idea of what normal tissues look like.

We have made a number of changes in this edition. In every instance our intent was to incorporate more structure-function correlations and to make clear the physiological implications of structure. Several chapters have been completely rewritten (the introduction, nervous tissue, lymphoid organs, male and female reproductive systems, and brain and special sense organs), and others have been substantially revised.

Our thanks go to the many colleagues whose micrographs appear in the text and to the many instructors and students who have given us help over the years in improving the presentation of the material. The text continues to evolve, and we are grateful for the support of our friends in this process.

Gerrit Bevelander
Judith A. Ramaley