

# Preface

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This third edition of the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine textbook represents a complete revision of the prior edition. A significant amount of new information is included— from the basic science of spine disease to surgical management of lumbar disorders. The members of this society who have contributed their excellent work are also the ones whose research has led to the many advances in the care and management of spinal disorders. This is an inclusive textbook emphasizing the basic science behind the clinical problems we face on a daily basis; it is comprehensive and covers all facets of the diseases that affect the lumbar spine. We are grateful to all the members of this society who have contributed chapters in order to make this the authoritative textbook on the lumbar spine.

This book is intended for all physicians and allied personnel who care for patients with low-back disorders. Hopefully, it will answer all the questions that the reader has to better understand the etiology, pathophysiology, clinical diagnosis, and management of lumbar disease.

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