Embryology & Anomalies of the Facial Nerve and Their Surgical Implications
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Second Edition

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Dedication for the Second Edition

To
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Wife, mother, and friend

Dedication from the First Edition

To
My father, partner, and best friend
Joseph Sataloff MD DSC
whose guidance and inspiration are largely responsible
for any successes I have enjoyed in my profession
This book is the result of more than 10 years of inquiry. It began when the senior author (Robert Thayer Sataloff) was a resident in the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Michigan, USA. The teaching at that time suggested that the location of the facial nerve in congenitally malformed ears was unknown. This produced uncertainty and fear in the otologic surgeon. In fact, many otolaryngologists were opposed to corrective surgery for hearing improvement, especially in patients with unilateral malformations, believing that the risk of facial paralysis was greater than the potential gain. It seemed to the author that if one understood the embryology of the facial nerve, it would be possible to make a reasonably accurate prediction of facial nerve position in most cases. However, when the authors went to the library to look up facial nerve embryology and correlate it with embryology of the ear, the literature review was almost more challenging than the surgery itself.

Some of this book is based on a study that was undertaken to help solve the practical clinical problem of facial nerve localization in surgical candidates with congenitally malformed ears. This study won the Edmund Prince Fowler Award for basic research, presented by the American Rhinological, Laryngological and Otological (Triological) Society in 1989. Since the first edition of this book was published in 1991, there has been very little new information discovered about gross embryology of the facial nerve. However, there has been substantial progress in understanding facial nerve differentiation and migration. A summary of the latest research is included in the second edition as well as new chapter on phylogeny. The authors hope that the information in this book will prove convenient and practical for otologic surgeons and students of otologic embryology and will facilitate review of this fascinating subject.

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to the Second Edition

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