

## Preface

This new English edition has been completely revised and updated. The pocket atlas is meant as a companion to lectures. It also serves as a valuable orientation tool for course work in microscopic anatomy. More than ever before, histology plays a very important role in medicine and biology. Therefore, the short instructive texts have been updated so that they incorporate the latest scientific findings. An understanding of micromorphological techniques is a prerequisite for the study of biochemistry, physiology and the relatively young discipline of molecular cell biology. Accordingly, cytology and histology rank high in the curriculum.

This pocket atlas does not attempt to provide a complete theoretical knowledge of histology, which may be approached using comprehensive works on cytology, histology and microscopic anatomy. It rather conveys a basic understanding of the elements in histology and the microscopic anatomy of the human body. Students of histology will value this pocket atlas as a course companion book while using microscopic techniques. The atlas will help them to recognize the crucial elements and structures in a histological image and make it easier to arrive at the correct diagnosis.

You will find 16 tables in the appendix. Students have suggested this addition. With the help of these tables, students can test their ability to recognize and interpret the relevant structures in histological images.

The intuitive layout of the current edition makes it easy to find references. Many new images have been added.

I am grateful to my colleagues of the Lübeck Institute of Anatomy for their invaluable assistance in creating this new edition. The names of my colleagues who graciously provided original images are listed in the appendix.

My secretary, Mrs. Roswitha Jönsson, was an extraordinary help to me. She took care of the final corrections to the manuscript. My thanks go to Mr. Albrecht Hauff and Dr. Wolfgang Knüppe who supervised this edition with their customary care. Special thanks also go the talented team at the Georg Thieme Verlag.

I hope that this latest edition of the pocket atlas will be a helpful guide for students of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, biology and related sciences. I wish that it might open your window to the fascinating world of the smallest structures of the organism.

*Lübeck, Spring of 2003*

*Wolfgang Kühnel*