
PREFACE

The head and neck is characterized by its complex anatomy that performs vital functions and is affected by diverse pathology. Head and Neck surgical and reconstructive techniques continue to evolve and mature. An in depth knowledge of the anatomy and safe dissection skills are essential talents for professionals practicing in this area to achieve optimal patient outcomes and to avoid unnecessary complications and suffering. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Head & Neck Dissection and Reconstruction Course aims to educate trainees and head and neck surgeons to advance their knowledge and refine their skills in performing head and neck operations in a safe environment. We have included comprehensive coverage of the various reconstructive flaps and microvascular techniques as these are an integral component of the repertoire of head and neck patient care.

This manual not only acts as a reference for those who participate in our courses, but also provides a template to organize and run similar courses elsewhere. It also provides a valuable reference for any surgeon doing or planning these operations in clinical practice. Our team has spent considerable time detailing the procedures in this manual, emphasizing important steps for each operation. We aimed for a step by step guidance with simple and clear instructions. Every effort has been made to complement the text with oriented atlas like photographs that include labelling of key structures.

First and foremost we acknowledge the persons who bequeathed their bodies to our institution for educational purposes. Mr. James Ting and his able staff in the dissecting laboratory are credited for their care and preparation of cadavers. Dr. Jacky Lo and Dr. Kelvin Chow assisted with dissection when preparing the manual. Dr. Zenon Yeung captured excellent photographs during dissections and Miss Janet Fong crafted the professional diagrams from our amateur illustrations. Our department has provided generous support for this project. Lastly we recognize that without our families' selfless support, our daily work would not be possible.

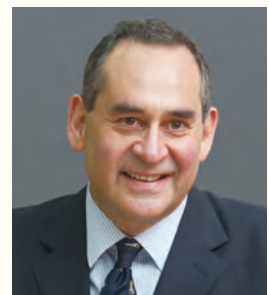
We have created this manual to guide, complement and enhance value to be gained from the priceless opportunity of dissecting specimens of excellent quality. It is indeed a privilege to learn and advance our operative skills through hands on experience in the totally safe setting of the laboratory.

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