

Laboratory Hemostasis

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A Practical Guide for Pathologists

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*To Elizabeth Bennett, Julie Monahan and
other family and friends for their unfailing support,
and to the numerous residents and fellows
and our faculty colleagues who have
stimulated our interest in coagulation
and inspired this book*

Preface

In the course of our practice as coagulation laboratory directors, we have acquired personal libraries of hemostasis and thrombosis texts that serve as excellent references for the basic science and clinical aspects of hemostasis. What is missing, though, is a single reference text that provides practical information and guidance on the topics relevant to directing a coagulation laboratory. We are sure we are not alone in wishing for such a reference. After talking about it for several years, we have now attempted to fill the void with a handbook containing the information we provide to the residents and fellows that we are helping train to become laboratory directors.

In writing this book we have tried to cite the consensus recommendations of authoritative bodies whenever possible, and otherwise, have cited reviews, chapters, and research articles of experts in their respective fields. These references should act as a starting point for a more detailed study of the various aspects of coagulation testing.

It is our intent that pathologists, clinical laboratory scientists, and other physicians serving as laboratory directors will find this book helpful to understand and carry out their responsibilities. Another intent is that residents and fellows will find this book to be a useful tool for learning the basics of coagulation testing and for studying for board examinations. We also hope that coagulation laboratory supervisors, technologists, and technicians find this to be a helpful reference for the day-to-day operation of the laboratory. Finally, clinicians may find aspects of this book helpful in understanding the role of the coagulation laboratory in patient evaluation and monitoring.

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