
Atlas of Heart Anatomy and Development

Florin Mihail Filipoiu

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Preface

To write a book utilizing the extraordinary sources of information, which so many people have access to, seems to have over-simplified our field. Perhaps, this is the way it should be. However, it is my sincere belief that when one purchases a book, one must choose wisely as it will influence their future. The method of how a book is written will influence your professional development.

Beyond the abundance of information lies the writer's style, belief and respect for the subject and his peers. Basic information can be useful; however when combined with love, experience and "savoir faire", it actually shapes the readers.

The development of this book took over 8 years. During this time, several times per week, side-by-side with my assistants and a few enthusiastic students, we would spend hours in the dissection laboratory. In the beginning, I did not wear glasses – however during this time, my prescription doubled. My assistants went from being single to having children of their own who now attend school. It took us over a year to realize what we did not know and subsequently rediscovered structure by structure.

I discovered the phenomenal history of how anatomical structures were initially described. I read about anatomists who are no longer even mentioned; however their contribution to our profession has been so powerful that they deserve to be recognized with statues. I have compared opposite theories about the same structure and have supported those scientists that were ignored by the contemporaries of their time. After a few years of this research, I was able to develop a macro view. Ontogenesis and the cardiac anatomy were intertwined and supplemented admirably. After a while, we began to view information based on its clinical utility. Subsequently, we commenced to form our own opinions which developed into theory.

I reached a profound moment when I was able to describe the myocardial architecture, through the prism of biological utility and clinical function. It was like winning the World Cup – only for me, it happened to be while I was alone, in front of my computer, late at night. The hardest part was assembling my thoughts and ultimately my conclusions in a final product. The difficulty of the editing process, however, was mitigated by virtue of the people that I worked with. Along with my team-mates, I actually learned a new skill. I sincerely thank them for their support and dedication. Towards the end, honestly, I even asked myself if all this time and effort was worth it. I discovered that it was actually hard to be sincere with myself. I immediately decided that I had to be sincere with you, my readers.

To write a book that has taken such a long time to put together and that required significant resources and energy is something that is very difficult to recommend embarking upon. However, to experience the creation of intellectual capacity and the unparalleled feeling of elation is something that is reserved for the souls of aristocrats. In the end, it is all a matter of self-reflection.

This book is dedicated to my children, Zoran and Serena, my niece Sabina and my parents. A special thank you to my wife, Mirela, who has taught me the extraordinary lessons of will power, ideals and priorities.

Bucharest, Romania

Florin Mihail Filipoiu, PhD, MD

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