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I would like to sincerely thank the editor of *Advances in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology*, Prof. Wolfgang Arnold, for asking me to be guest editor for a book on active middle ear implants. It was a delightful undertaking for me to organize this anthology and to invite the authors who were selected from the many experts in the various topics of this broad field.

The publication of this book is very timely considering the recently expanded methods for coupling active middle ear implants to the middle ear – to the round window or in combination with passive middle ear prostheses. It is also an opportunity to review the currently marketed systems and to evaluate how they can be used to help hearing impaired patients. Over the past decade, we have witnessed a continuous evolution in the expansion of the patient selection criteria from purely sensorineural hearing losses to conductive and mixed hearing losses in difficult-to-treat ears.

This book begins with a fascinating and authentic history of active middle ear implants, written by one of the main pioneers in this field. In the following chapters, the currently marketed devices and their application are described. Technical improvements have resulted not only in better speech processing but also in fully implantable middle ear implants using electromagnetic stimulators. An additional development is the launch of a new, fully implantable device with a piezoelectric stimulator. Clinical experiences and results from a large group of patients, using the range of devices, are presented in this book.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all authors who prepared exceptionable manuscripts to share their experience. I am particularly thankful to Stefan-Marcel Pok for his hard work and long hours over many nights and weekends. His assistance contributed to the success of this publication.

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