

Congratulations on the upcoming publication of the book *Notes on Laparoscopic Gastrointestinal Surgery*, collecting a group of talented young surgeons focusing in laparoscopic gastrointestinal surgery. I am pleased to write a preface for their work recording their progress.

Mixed feelings emerged noticing that 30 years has already passed since the beginning of my medical career. Looking back in 1986, I know I studied in France during the best years as the cradle land of laparoscopic surgery. I had the chance to witness and experience the start and historical progress of laparoscopic surgery technology. My mentor offered me plenty of opportunities in the operating room for I had facile hands well-trained by chopsticks that it was in 1989 when I first did the laparoscopic cholecystectomy. It was in my 30s when I came back to China and operated the first radical resection for sigmoid colon cancer in China in 1993. I remember so well because it was the tough years back there in China. With more than 20 years' development, laparoscopic surgery in China has developed tremendously. It is this 20 years the golden times for laparoscopic surgery and the most energetic times for gastrointestinal surgery. For now, concepts of laparoscopy including precise anatomy, medial approach, membrane anatomy, laparoscopic anatomical marks and levels are all borrowed to open surgery; and endoscopic equipments like ultrasonic scalpel and cutter staple are widely applied in traditional surgery. Laparoscopic surgery's supporting back to traditional surgery makes it even more attractive for gastrointestinal surgeons to learn the techniques and consistently promoting the progress of laparoscopic gastrointestinal surgery.

The book *Notes on Laparoscopic Gastrointestinal Surgery* comes out at the right time when the laparoscopic surgery are widely done and done skillfully. The authors share their personal experience and inspiration in a specific surgery procedures in forms of video demonstration, figure illustration and verbal description.

I am glad to see the contributions made by this group of young talented laparoscopic surgeons and hope this book would benefit more gastrointestinal surgeons, other doctors and medicos interested in the technique.

**Minhua Zheng, MD**

*Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine, Shanghai, China*