

“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.” – Charles Darwin, 1809.

In 1950, Dr. Belsey wrote that “the intrathoracic portion of the trachea is the last unpaired organ in the body to fall to the surgeon, and the successful solution of the problem of its reconstruction may mark the end of the ‘expansionist epoch’ in the development of surgery” (Belsey R. Resection and reconstruction of the intrathoracic trachea. *Br J Surg* 1950;38:200-5.). However, the long segment of trachea resection and reconstruction continues to be a big problem for surgeons until now. Surgery of the trachea and bronchi still represents the most challenging operation for every thoracic surgeon in the world.

Fortunately, we are the one most responsive to change. During the past few decades, the techniques and principles of tracheal and bronchial operations have been shared and disseminated through the world, and the success rate of treatment for tracheal and bronchial diseases has been greatly improved. At the same time, great efforts have been made to simplify the procedures of tracheal and bronchial surgery, to overcome the limit of trachea resection (6cm or half of the trachea), and to explore the new substitute of airway.

This book not only includes the anatomy, basic techniques and classic concept of trachea and bronchi surgery but also introduces the new advance in the repair, reconstruction and replacement of trachea and bronchi such as VATS or robotic technique, 3D printing technique, and so on. This book might provide readers with the basic knowledge, the experience, and the perspective of trachea and bronchi surgery.

It is hoped that this book could inspire more thoracic surgeons to be devoted to change, and to end “the ‘expansionist epoch’ in the development of surgery”.

Xiaofei Li, MD, PhD

Department of Thoracic Surgery, Tangdu Hospital,
The Fourth Military Medical University, Xi’an 710038, China