
Foreword

Spine surgery is an inherently evolving subspecialty. Our understanding of the pathology, biomechanics, and natural history of spine disease coupled with technical and technological innovations is enabling us to achieve better and safer outcomes for our patients. At the forefront of this revolution is awake spine surgery! The ability to surgically treat spinal conditions without the added morbidity of general anesthesia is a bold and necessary step as we collectively aspire to minimize perioperative complications in our aging population undergoing spine surgery. In this new and unique text, Dr. Abd-El-Barr and co-editors brilliantly cover this innovative and emerging topic. This text is appropriately divided into pre-, intra-, and postoperative considerations. Ample content on regional anesthesia and spinal

blocks is presented, and innovative techniques like endoscopy, robotics, and minimally invasive lateral spine approaches are also thoroughly covered. This comprehensive text on awake spine surgery will undoubtedly serve as an iconic text on this subject matter and will be the go-to guide for all clinicians interested in this new and exciting space. Congratulations to all the editors and contributors on this great work!

Ali A. Baaj, MD
Professor and Vice-Chair
Department of Neurological Surgery
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Chicago, Illinois, USA