Over the past decade, robotic thoracic surgery has gone from being a sideshow to being commonly used and widely accepted. As the use of robotics for surgery on the lung, esophagus, thymus, and other structures of the chest has proliferated, so has the number of methods for doing so. This collection of articles from leaders in robotic thoracic surgery spans the globe, and portrays the diversity of approaches that have been developed as surgeons have refined the way they perform the operations. As such, a reader of this book can surmise that there is not a single approach that works best–rather, this book's utility is in passing along the accumulated lessons learned over thousands of cases done by dozens of surgeons. Furthermore, this collection summarizes much of the worldwide data on outcomes of robotic thoracic surgery, and the various tables embedded in the chapters can serve a concise and efficient resource for investigators seeking this information. Finally, the reader should take care not to miss the many surgical videos that have been compiled into this volume. If a picture is "worth a thousand words," then a video should count for a million. We hope that this book will be helpful as a technical guide for thoracic surgeons looking to adopt robotics in their practice. For experienced robotic surgeons, even a pearl or two gleaned from this text may prove valuable one day in the heat of the operating room.

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