

Preface



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Guest Editor

One of the wonderful things about being a nurse is the constant challenge and excitement in our evolving profession. Although the spirit of caring has been the mainstay of nursing for decades, it is no longer enough. Today's nurse is intellectually capable of synthesizing hundreds of bits of data to come up with an appropriate plan of care, has enough political savvy to negotiate the most convoluted health care system, and is able to apply research findings into an evidence-based practice, all while maintaining a core of compassion for patients and their families.

Nowhere is all this more evident than in endocrine nursing. Endocrine nursing requires a strong intellect and an ability to solve problems. It requires the nurse to be able to take a myriad of seemingly unrelated pieces of data from a patient's history, physical assessment, and laboratory and diagnostic test reports, and make sense out of it. It requires the nurse to have cutting-edge knowledge as the foundation for professional practice.

In this issue of the *Nursing Clinics of North America*, we have put together a collection of articles based on the most up-to-date information available. Nurses, physicians, and scientists share information that will help strengthen their practice. It has been exciting for me to begin a dialog with

our authors, and I hope our readers, too, will find this issue stimulating and thought-provoking.

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