



## Preface

# Contemporary Neurotology



M.L. Pensak, MD, FACS  
*Guest Editor*

Over the course of the past quarter-century, the field of neuro-otology has seen tremendous growth from both an academic and clinical vantage point. Moreover, as the specialty has become better defined, those practicing neuro-otology have been able to bring into sharper focus their particular areas of interest and expertise. Finally, as the specialty has matured and received recognition among our colleagues, the political battles fought by the preceding generation have mollified to a great extent and, in fact, seem to have abated in many arenas. It is with these thoughts in mind that a contemporary examination of neuro-otologic investigation and practice is presented in this issue of *The Otolaryngology Clinics of North America*.

To fully appreciate the enormous strides made, one must be cognizant of the past. Michael Glasscock III, MD, has graciously written a historic commentary regarding the foundation on which the contemporary specialty is built. Examination then is made regarding both scholastic and clinical investigation currently underway. Dennis Pappas, Jr, MD, reviews vitally important diagnostic imaging techniques, whereas vestibulopathic studies are presented within a clinical framework by Allan Rubin, MD, PhD, and Saleem Safar, BS. Rick Friedman, MD, PhD, and Kiaoyan Li, MD, PhD, have provided an insightful discussion regarding developments in the field of molecular biology as they impact on our specialty. Four clinical techniques currently receiving increasing attention include (1) inner ear perfusion, (2) endoscopy, (3) cochlear/brainstem implantation and (4) stereotactic radiosurgery. These techniques are ably articulated by Mitchel Schwaber, MD; Philip Wackym, MD, et al; William Luxford, MD, and Elizabeth Toh, MD; and Peter Roland, MD, respectively.

The core domain of neuro-otologic intervention remains within the purview of the surgical arena. Issues have focused, and continue to focus, on optimal management of pathologic conditions involving tumors juxtaposed to the temporal bone and bony skull base. Herein, detailed discussions are focused on the facial nerve, acoustic neuroma, and temporal bone malignancy by James Benecke, Jr, MD; John Kveton, MD, and Steven Ho, MD; and John Leonetti, MD, and Sam Marzo, MD. Furthermore, Wolf Mann, MD, PhD, focuses attention on neural conservation, and Michael Fritsch, MD, reviews the fundamental principles concerning lateral skull base reconstruction. An overview of transpetrosal surgical technique is presented by my associate, David Steward, MD, and myself.

Ours is an exciting, dynamic, and evolving specialty. Senior neuro-otologists have nurtured the younger generation, who, in turn, are inseminating the specialty with their keen insights, technical skills, and enthusiasm. It is my hope that students and residents will find this issue of the *Clinics* to be both stimulating and informative.

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