

## Preface

# Phonosurgery



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*Guest Editor*

Laryngeal and voice disorders can affect anyone regardless of age, sex, or social status. Altered or complete loss of voice can have devastating effects on an individual's ability to work, social interaction, and lifestyle. The field of laryngology began in the mid-nineteenth century after Garcia's description of mirror laryngoscopy. The term *phonosurgery* was coined in the early 1960s by Hans von Leden and refers to surgical procedures designed primarily to restore normal voice quality. Although there have been many advances in both laryngology and phonosurgery, these fields are still evolving. Many changes have occurred even since the last issue of the *Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America* devoted to this topic 5 years ago.

Although this issue cannot cover all areas of laryngology and phonosurgery, I selected topics that I believe are of significance to current practice, such as office-based laryngeal procedures and new laser applications in laryngology. I also selected topics that I believe represent the greatest challenges, such as the management of vocal fold scar and sulcus vocalis. To obtain a broader perspective, I invited some of our European colleagues to contribute articles, including Giorgio Peretti from Italy, Marc Remacle from Belgium, and Hans Mahieu from The Netherlands. It is my hope that readers will find this issue both informative and practical.

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