

Preface

Essentials of Thoracic Imaging



Caroline Chiles, MD
Guest Editor

Diagnostic radiology, like many other medical specialties, does not allow physicians to maintain competence solely on the basis of accumulating experience, but requires a commitment to life-long learning. Keeping pace with new knowledge and new technology competes with clinical demands on a radiologist's time. At the 2002 annual meeting in Chicago, the Radiological Society of North America initiated a series of continuing medical education lectures called "The Essentials." Attendance and audience feedback surpassed all expectations. Surveys of radiologists attending "The Essentials" lectures showed an equal mix of general radiologists, and radiologists who practice subspecialties outside the lecture topic. The participants were seeking practical information that would impact their daily radiology work—applying new technologies to diseases that are encountered every day.

My goal for this issue of *Radiologic Clinics of North America* is to condense the overwhelming

amount of current literature in thoracic radiology to the application of new technologies to bread-and-butter cases. Thank you to my colleagues who have shared their expertise in the basics of thoracic imaging: lung cancer, metastatic disease, the solitary pulmonary nodule, pneumonia, cardiovascular disease, and high resolution CT. Thank you as well to Ron Zagoria, who included me in the initial Radiological Society of North America Essentials faculty, and to Barton Dudlick, who saw this project through from start to finish.

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