

Preface



David A. Lynch, MD
Guest Editor

Since the last issue of *Clinics in Chest Medicine* dedicated to chest imaging, published in 1999, the field has expanded at an extraordinary pace. For example, CT angiography is accepted now as the primary tool for evaluation of pulmonary embolism, CT-positron emission tomography is established as an excellent technique for the diagnosis and staging of lung cancer, and high resolution CT plays a pivotal role in the diagnosis and classification of diffuse lung diseases. In this issue, our readers are fortunate that international leaders in thoracic radiology have agreed to provide up-to-date authoritative reviews of important topics for the pulmonologist.

This issue begins with three articles discussing lung cancer. Drs. Aberle and Brown deliver a scientific assessment of the role of CT and other techniques in screening for lung cancer. Drs. Klein and Braff provide a rational approach to the use of imaging in the evaluation of the solitary pulmonary nodule identified on chest radiograph or CT. Drs. Erasmus and Sabloff share their rich experience in the use of imaging to stage lung cancer.

Critical care imaging, pneumonia, and pulmonary embolism remain primary concerns for the hospital based physician. Drs. Hill, Horner, and Primack provide a practical and well-illustrated

guide to the imaging evaluation of the critically ill patient. Drs. Ketai, Jordan, and Marom provide a comprehensive discussion of the imaging features of infection in normal and immunocompromised hosts. Drs. Akpinar and Goodman discuss the imaging diagnosis of pulmonary thromboembolism in the light of the recent Prospective Investigation of Pulmonary Embolism Diagnosis II trial.

Imaging often is pivotal in the diagnosis of diffuse lung diseases. Dr. Akira provides a unique perspective on the radiographic and CT features of common and uncommon occupational and environmental lung diseases. Dr. Johkoh illustrates and discusses the radiologic and pathologic features of idiopathic interstitial pneumonias. Drs. Woodhead, Wells, and Desai provide a clinically focused discussion of the pulmonary complications of connective tissue diseases. My article discusses the value of CT in diagnosis and differential diagnosis of small airways diseases. This is complemented by Dr. Boiselle's elegant demonstration of the use of multi-dimensional imaging in diagnosis of large airways disease. Drs. VanBeek and Hoffman conclude the issue by describing the state of the art evaluation of regional and global pulmonary function by CT and MRI.

It has been an honor to participate with this outstanding group of authors, and I have been educated by reading their contributions. I am very excited about the quality of their articles, and my sincere thanks are due to them. Thanks also to Sarah Barth and Patrick Manley at Elsevier, who were very helpful in ensuring compliance with deadlines and production of this high-quality book. I hope that this snapshot of contemporary chest imaging will be of value to pulmonologists,

radiologists, and others dedicated to the daily care of patients who have pulmonary disease.

David A. Lynch, MD
Division of Radiology
National Jewish Medical and Research Center
1400 Jackson Street
Denver, CO 80206, USA
E-mail address: lynchd@njc.org