

Preface



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Guest Editor

Sports and its biomechanics have been studied for millennia since the works of Aristotle, Leonardo da Vinci, and Etienne Jules Marey. Sports medicine has developed and grown with the emergence of new sports, new levels of competition, and new applications of biomechanics within human sporting activities. Over time, sport-specific problems have been recognized, such as concussion in hockey and football, spinal cord problems in winter sports, and excessive pediatric injury associated with trampoline usage. The distinctiveness of many sporting-related neurologic injuries has led to new interest in their prevalence, recognition, and prevention.

This issue of the *Neurologic Clinics* contains 19 articles examining aspects of sports-related injuries with emphasis on their effects upon the nervous system. In addition to articles devoted to the recognition and management of concussion and spinal cord injury, there are articles dedicated to the biomechanics of such injuries. Specialized articles examine the importance of sleep deprivation, the abuse of drugs, and the significance of fatigue for the athlete's well-being and physiologic functioning. Another section examines specific sports, ranging from the individual sports such as running and cycling to team sports such as hockey and football. Topics both well known and less well known to the neurologist and other clinicians have been included. We also have designed this issue to be of interest to the athlete, fan of athletic competitions, and the layperson. The book also may be of interest to other physicians such as sports medicine specialists, neurosurgeons, physiatrists, occupational medicine specialists, orthopedic surgeons, emergency medicine specialists, neuropsychologists, and general practitioners.

We also hope that kinesiologists, physical therapists, sports trainers, and occupational therapists will be interested in many aspects of this book.

I am grateful to all the outstanding contributors. I also appreciate the encouragement to edit this collection provided by Randolph W. Evans and the feedback provided by Donald Mumford and his colleagues at Elsevier Publishing. This fine collection of important and timely articles was composed with their vision, and I am pleased to assist in making the knowledge of all the contributors available to the medical community and beyond.

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