

Preface



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Guest Editor

Cosmetic dermatology is truly undergoing a renaissance. Just 10 years ago, dermatologists had limited tools in their armamentarium to address the myriad appearance-related issues in the field. The big bang of cosmetic dermatology occurred with the cosmetic use of botulinum toxins. This addressed one of the four *Rs* in global rejuvenation—relaxation of muscles of facial expression. The use of botulinum toxins has grown from merely addressing glabellar rhytids to the sophisticated use in facial shaping. The rapid development of dermal fillers soon exploded, addressing the second *R*—refilling of loss of facial and nonfacial volume. For the majority of the twentieth century, dermal fillers were limited to collagens and the concept of filling in lines. The explosion of varieties of classes of fillers now enables dermatologists to achieve facial sculpting. The expansion of selective photothermolysis led to the development of a multitude of devices addressing the third *R*—resurfacing the facial and nonfacial canvas. The initial energy-based devices were often bulky and slow, with limited applications. Technologic advances in energy-based devices have made them more portable, ergonomic, and, most recently, even available for home use. The

development of cosmeceuticals and skin care products completes the fourth *R*—retention of skin elements. In addition to more sophisticated materials, enhanced delivery systems of these cosmeceuticals are making them more effective. These advances have paralleled increased global awareness, with the development of new skin-typing classification systems to address the complexities of ethnicity, response of skin to injury, and photodamage. We are now able to treat global skin with greater safety and efficacy. Finally, combination therapies are being used for global nonsurgical restoration—off and on face—using toxins, fillers, devices, and skin care in synergy. As we enter the new millennium, the field continues to grow at lightning speed. This issue of *Dermatologic Clinics* reviews current and emerging technologies in the field of cosmetic dermatology.

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