

## Preface



Scott G. Edwards, MD  
*Guest Editor*

Elbow instability has been a frequent challenge to clinicians, ranging from diagnosis to revision surgery. Although much has been learned in recent years, elbow instability still haunts orthopaedic practices. This issue of *Hand Clinics* ventures up the extremity into the “unforgiving joint” and examines the problems posed by acute and chronic elbow instability in adults and children, including traumatic, congenital, autoimmune, postreconstructive, and infectious etiologies. Updates on relevant topics, such as management of contracture and heterotopic ossification, are also covered.

Evidence-based medicine largely has left elbow instability behind, and as a result much of today’s practice is based on religion rather than science. Although the literature struggles to compensate, clinicians remain on the front line and must treat these difficult problems to the best of their ability. For them, this issue of *Hand Clinics* is especially relevant. My goal was to create an issue that

expands past what is known in the literature and delves into expert testimony. Assembled for this issue are some of today’s greatest minds in elbow surgery sharing their expertise. These contributing authors are highly commended for their insightful articles, as is the editorial direction of Elsevier’s Debora Dellapena. Through our efforts, you will read about teasing apart differential diagnoses, avoiding pitfalls, and implementing technical pearls. Armed with the guidance within these pages, the unforgiving elbow might seem slightly more forgiving.

Scott G. Edwards, MD  
*Division of Hand and Elbow Surgery  
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
Georgetown University Hospital  
3800 Reservoir Road, NW, PHC-G  
Washington, DC 20007, USA*

*E-mail address:* [sgel@gunet.georgetown.edu](mailto:sgel@gunet.georgetown.edu)