

Preface



Mary Jane Mulcahey, PhD, OTR/L



Albert A. Weiss, MD, MBA

Guest Editors

This is the second issue of *Hand Clinics* that is dedicated entirely to research and clinical interventions for restoration of hand and arm function in people who have tetraplegia. This issue is based largely on the recent International Meeting on Upper Limb in Tetraplegia that was held in Philadelphia in September 2007 for approximately 150 interested clinicians.

As a direct result of their collaboration, surgical techniques and assistive technologies for improved upper limb function have advanced greatly—giving people who have spinal cord injury monumentally improved capabilities for engagement in work, self care, and leisure. Part of the meeting focused on the study of meaningful outcomes—those that are important to people who have tetraplegia—enabling researchers and clinicians to better meet the expectations of those receiving upper limb care.

This issue of *Hand Clinics* addresses contemporary principles related to the upper limb in

tetraplegia: outcomes, assessments, and measurement issues; surgical technique and rehabilitation of elbow extension transfers; and management of the hand of persons who have incomplete injuries. In addition, international participants present a summary of contemporary perspectives. Lastly, and with much enthusiasm, a discussion of shoulder modeling is introduced as an important area of consideration when managing the upper limb of persons who have spinal cord injury.

Mary Jane Mulcahey, PhD, OTR/L
Albert A. Weiss, MD, MBA
Shriners Hospital for Children
3551 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19140, USA

E-mail addresses: mmulcahey@shrinenet.org;
bertieweiss@hotmail.com