

## Preface



Susan E. Mackinnon, MD



Christine B. Novak, PT, MS, PhD(c)

*Guest Editors*

This issue of *Hand Clinics* introduces surgeons to the merits and virtues of nerve transfers, and much of what is presented here has yet to reach standard textbooks. We have invited a number of our colleagues to share their expertise and insight with the readers of *Hand Clinics*.

Drs. Anastakis, Malessy, Chen, Davis, and Mikulis describe the important central changes that occur with peripheral “re-wiring.” Drs. Lien, Cederna, and Kuzon review important work on the effect of muscle denervation and the response to reinnervation. Drs. Bengston, Spinner, Bishop, Kaufman, Coleman-Wood, Kircher, and Shin present their experience with brachial plexus reconstruction and measuring outcomes. Dr. Terzis and coauthors Drs. Kokkalis and Kostopoulous provide a clinical review of using contralateral C7 transfers in adult plexopathies. Dr. Colbert and I review some of the nerve transfers that are used currently, and Dr. Kozin gives his perspective on nerve transfers in the obstetric and pediatric population. Drs. Dvali and Myckatyn contribute an update on end-to-side nerve regeneration.

We are fortunate to have several eminent international contributors. Dr. Millesi, a pioneer of nerve grafting, his coauthor, Dr. Schmidhammer from Austria and Dr. Chuang from Taiwan, have extraordinary experience with nerve reconstruction and have provided comprehensive reviews. Finally,

the important aspects of motor reeducation to maximize patient outcome are presented.

We sincerely thank all of the authors for their significant contributions to this extraordinary edition of *Hand Clinics*. Together, we have treated patients in clinical practice for decades, and it is our opinion that the use of nerve transfers has resulted in a positive paradigm shift in patient outcome and in the results obtainable for many peripheral nerve injuries. It is our hope that the readers of this publication will benefit from the expertise of the contributors and share our enthusiasm regarding the expanded use of nerve transfers in patients who have traumatic peripheral nerve injuries.

Susan E. Mackinnon, MD  
*Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*  
*Department of Surgery*  
*Washington University School of Medicine*  
*660 South Euclid, Box 8238*  
*St. Louis, MO 63110, USA*

*E-mail address:* [mackinnon@wustl.edu](mailto:mackinnon@wustl.edu)

Christine B. Novak, PT, MS, PhD(c)  
*Research Associate*  
*University Health Network*  
*8N-875, 200 Elizabeth Street*  
*Toronto, Ontario M5G 2C4, Canada*

*E-mail address:* [christine.novak@utoronto.ca](mailto:christine.novak@utoronto.ca)