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Preface  
Anesthesia-related complications



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*Guest Editor*

I approached the challenge of editing this issue of *Anesthesiology Clinics of North America* in the only way that I honestly can, as a clinical anesthesiologist. I undertook a mission to better understand how complications occur during the administration of anesthetics, and how they can be prevented. In order to do this in a rational way, the scientific underpinnings of complications in anesthesiology had to be reviewed, as well as the details of many clinical procedures.

The topic of Anesthesia-Related Complications is a very broad one, and exhaustive review could fill many issues. Therefore, another goal that I set for myself was to secure recognized experts to write articles in their areas, and to make these articles concise, current, and focused. Based on the quality of authors in this issue, and the excellence of their articles, I am confident that this goal has been achieved.

An issue like this can be most valuable when it offers new perspectives on a subject area that has already been reviewed on numerous occasions in the past. One article that fulfills this objective is Dr. Karen Domino's work about the American Society of Anesthesiologists Closed Claims Committee. It is important to know where much of the information we use comes from, and where it may come from in the future. Despite the great importance of prospective, double blind studies, not all useful information comes in this form. Issues of patient safety and patient consent, as well as the shortage of resources for research, preclude definitive studies of many of the procedures and techniques that we employ every day. As another example, Dr. Bruce Ben-David has superimposed an original framework on the issues involving safety of regional and neuraxial blocks, and I think this will prove to be of benefit to thoughtful

clinicians. All the authors provide new information, as well as clear structure to previous knowledge.

I wish to thank all of the authors included in this issue for their willingness to participate, and for writing thoughtful and outstanding articles. I hope that their efforts, as well as mine, are rewarded by the knowledge that some, maybe many, patients in every corner of the world, have better medical outcomes. This, after all, is why we do what we do.

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