

## Foreword



Lee A. Fleisher, MD  
*Consulting Editor*

Over the past several years, there has been a small but growing series of papers that suggest that management decisions made during the perioperative period may influence outcomes long after surgery. These provocative papers led to the convening of a meeting by the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation. At that meeting, both the data and potential mechanisms were discussed. Although highly provocative, additional research is clearly required to determine if the link truly exists, and if so, how best to modify that risk. Those of us who attended the meeting believed that the information presented would be useful to all anesthesiologists, leading to the development of this issue of the *Anesthesiology Clinics of North America*.

Steffen E. Meiler, MD was a clear choice for editor of this issue. His major area of interest is the perioperative immune response. He is currently Vice Chairman of Research and Director of the Program for Molecular Perioperative Medicine & Genomics at the Medical College of Georgia. As one of those who attended the original meeting, he was able to assemble this international group of investigators to produce an outstanding issue that should stimulate those interested in this area for many years to come.

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