

## Foreword

# Teaching and Evaluating Surgical Skills



William F. Rayburn, MD  
*Consulting Editor*

Gynecologic surgery has advanced during the past two decades. Refinements in instrumentation, video technology, suture material, and adhesion prevention have resulted in less morbid and more efficient procedures. New vistas will certainly challenge the new resident physician or the experienced surgeon to rethink his or her surgical approach. Cutting-edge robotics may forecast a time when the pelvic surgeon operates with accuracy and safety “away” from the patient. With the introduction of these new procedures and with more emphasis on quality assurance, there is a need to critically evaluate the surgeon’s capabilities.

Dr. Rebecca Rogers guest edits a compelling issue dedicated to teaching and evaluating current skills while recognizing certain pitfalls to avoid in surgical training. This effort was undertaken in response to rapid changes encountered in the teaching of surgical principles. New surgical trainees and established surgeons alike will benefit from learning new technical approaches to prepare for evolving technology.

This issue reflects not only the basic, sound principles of established gynecologic surgical skills, but also what is controversial in the sometimes slow yet steady advance in knowledge of our surgical specialty. Major educational topics are addressed by the 15 contributing authors who excel as surgical educators. Uses of imagery and virtual reality simulations are presented along with specific suggestions for improving current techniques in the operating room. This com-

pilation will serve students of all levels of experience with a structured assessment of their surgical skills.

William F. Rayburn, MD  
*Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology*  
*University of New Mexico*  
*MSC 10 5580*  
*1 University of New Mexico*  
*Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001, USA*  
*E-mail address: [wrayburn@salud.unm.edu](mailto:wrayburn@salud.unm.edu)*