



## Foreword

# Soft tissue disorders of the ankle, part I



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“Even if you are on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”

Will Rogers

I am pleased to introduce this issue of the *Clinics in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery* dedicated to the painful ankle. As foot and ankle specialists, we are confronted and challenged each day by the complexities of the human ankle.

It seems as if every year we hear about another state board recognizing the podiatrist as the true foot and ankle expert by changing practice laws to include ankle privileges. Indeed, the well-trained podiatrist can be found practicing side-by-side with our orthopedic colleagues, whether in multi-specialty clinics or in large orthopedic groups.

However, the realm of the ankle belongs to the trained individual, and this requires a true, self-directed continuous learning attitude on the part of the practitioner. The diagnostic acumen and tools necessary to achieve a well-defined differential diagnosis of ankle pain require both a knowledge base and consistent updating. What good does it serve our patients and our profession if we allow stagnation of knowledge because of our own loss of attention to detail? Surely, we may be on the right track, but we will be run over by our own complacency.

To this end I present Dr. Babak Baravarian as Guest Editor of this issue focusing on the diagnosis and treatment of soft tissue injuries involving the ankle. Bob has gathered an impressive group of national and international authors, consisting of foot and ankle surgeons, traumatologists, and sports medicine experts, to present a comprehensive look at the presenting painful ankle. The intent of this issue, which will be presented in two parts, is to offer a continuum

of education regarding the proper evaluation and treatment of ankle pain. The diagnostic tools available, including state-of-the-art research and techniques, will be presented to complement the basic knowledge and accepted norms of an approach to the patient who presents with ankle pain.

Dr. Baravarian is to be commended on this excellent work and the dedication he has shown to our profession. His willingness to coordinate and supervise these articles has guaranteed a place for this issue of the *Clinics* in my library. I believe that all ankle practitioners will find this to be an excellent reference book.

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