



Clin Podiatr Med Surg
20 (2003) xi–xii

CLINICS IN
PODIATRIC
MEDICINE AND
SURGERY

Foreword

Perioperative management of the podiatric patient



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Alice: Which way should I go?

Cat: That depends on where you are going.

Alice: I don't know where I'm going!

Cat: Then it doesn't matter which way you go!!

Lewis Carroll, 1872
Through the Looking-Glass

So much to do, so little time; is it possible that another year has passed or rather that another year has begun, already.

The rumblings of a tremendous change are upon us in the medical profession. The President brings the issue of malpractice to the forefront of the American public at his State-of-the-Union address while across the country we see various physician groups organizing to demonstrate their own frustrations with our present system. The tides of change are upon us and this time I believe that we will indeed see change in many forms.

The present climate affords us an opportunity to take back what was and is rightfully ours, the ability to once again control the practice of medicine, to make the decisions that are right for our patients. What a blessing it would be to function without all of those unnecessary medico-legal worries and constraints. Patient's rights are essential and the well being of the patient must be at the very

top of the list, but as physicians we know that the first rule is “do no harm.” Physicians need to dictate medical policy, it is what we know and do best.

Whatever the final result, we can be sure that there will be a very different animal at the end of this road. I, for one, am looking forward to it!

The question that comes to mind is: Which way is podiatry going? One thing is for sure; this profession is dynamic and ever changing. Although our objectives may vary, the goal seems to be the same: the advancement and recognition of the podiatric medical profession. I am constantly reminded of this goal when I read the podiatric literature. The podiatric physician engaged in the trenches, in the every day-to-day activity of patient care constitutes the heart and soul of the profession and our literature comprises the battle hymn. We rely on our literature base to expand our professions recognition and validity as well as demonstrating our advances.

This issue of the *Clinics in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery* discusses the perioperative management of patients. Dr. Leonard Janis, in his role as Guest Editor, emphasizes a most important fact: We treat the whole patient, not just podiatric pathologic entities! The emphasis is on the podiatrist as a physician and not just a technician.

I applaud Dr. Janis and his team of authors for recognizing the goal of our profession and for using the most visible tool to bring that goal to fruition.

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