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Preface

Orthobiologics

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Guest Editor

Bone healing is not always a matter of time, but is often a matter of opportunity.

—Dr. Matt Heilala

There are over 1.3 million bone grafting procedures performed each year in the United States. Use of autograft may not always be the best solution. Problems associated with autograft include a limited amount of donor site material, increased surgical time, increased blood loss, potential for increased surgical costs, potential for donor site morbidity, and chronic pain at donor hip sites in up to 25% of patients.

Therefore, use of technologic advancements in the fields of tissue engineering and orthobiologics make for an attractive alternative. With this issue we hope to further elucidate that autograft may not actually be the true gold standard, but rather may just represent the historical standard.

The authors of this issue of the *Clinics in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery* represent a broad knowledge base and clinical experience in the use of these exciting new materials. I hope that readers will appreciate that the production and recapitulation of native soft tissue and bone is not so dependent upon the dogmatic use of autograft, but rather through the consistent application of biologic principles related to histogenesis and osteogenesis.

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