

Foreword



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Consulting Editor

Being Thankful

It is with utmost pride, honor, and respect that I accept this position as the new Consulting Editor for the *Clinics in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery* starting with this issue of October 2008. It is certainly a big task and a new challenge that I have to face in my academic career. I must not forget, however, the people who have guided me early in my training and also helped me achieve my goals and education.

First, I want to thank Dr. Clinton Lowery and Drs. Nicki and Jeff Nigro from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for accepting me into their residency program and showing me the early baby steps in my academic journey. After a solid residency, I moved on to a bigger step in my career by accepting a revisional and reconstructive foot and ankle surgery fellowship with Drs. Gary Peter Jolly and Peter Blume at the New Britain General Hospital, New Britain, Connecticut, affiliated with the Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut. During that time, Dr. Jolly served as the president of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons and essentially opened the doors to my educational, clinical, and surgical experience. In addition, Drs. Jolly and Blume always taught me the importance of academic medicine, research, and surgical excellence, and eventually, I was invited to accept a position as an Assistant Professor within the Department of Orthopaedics/Podiatry Division at The University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC) in San Antonio, Texas under the direct supervision of Dr. Lawrence Harkless. Dr. Harkless has been stellar

in our profession for many years and personally helped me accomplish my goals within an academic institution. He has been a true leader and mentor and also guided me to establish and direct the current fellowships in research and reconstructive surgery at UTHSC in San Antonio, Texas.

Remembering and being thankful to all the people who have guided you throughout the most crucial steps in your career must be a certain appreciation and a lifetime recognition. So please, take a moment away from your busy daily schedule to thank your externship, residency, and fellowship directors along with all of the physicians and surgeons during your training, and appreciate the amount of time, dedication, passion, and extra work that they have had to perform for the advancement of the profession, education, and patient success. We seem to easily forget those who showed us the successful road in our profession in the face of our personal glory and maybe short-term success.

As a new Consulting Editor, I have made a strong initial step to make some changes under the direct guidance and help of our previous editor, Dr. Vincent Mandracchia. His long dedication to the *Clinics in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery* has been a tremendous asset to our profession and education and I am most grateful to him for my current position. I have added a national and international Editorial Board of prestigious foot and ankle experts to help us select and review the most current topics in the field of podiatric medicine and surgery. In addition, a new section, "Current Concepts and Techniques in Foot and Ankle Surgery," at the end of each issue encourages submissions from residents and fellows across the country and around the world.

In this issue, Dr. Roukis has been selected to serve as a guest editor for the "Surgical Reconstruction of the High-Risk Patient." He and his colleagues cover modern techniques, including percutaneous osseous and soft tissue procedures for the highly at-risk patient. In the presence of multiple comorbidities, peripheral vascular disease, and severe deformities, the minimally invasive percutaneous corrections have recently gained popularity in the literature. This issue will certainly become a great tool to guide you with the most difficult surgical candidates.

Finally, a great thank you to all of the Editorial Board members and to my wife Kristen and daughter Labrini for their understanding and support throughout this new challenge in my life.

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