

Preface



Linda Harrington, PhD, RN, CNS, CPHQ
Guest Editor

This issue of *Critical Care Nursing Clinics* tackles a significant and growing issue in critical care: obesity. Obese patients pose unique challenges to critical care nurses and the increasing numbers of these patients make this an important area of study.

The articles in this issue delve into the impact of obesity on critically ill adult patients, nursing staff, and hospital resources. Nurses will learn how to alter their approaches to assessment, goal setting, care planning, intervention, and evaluation based on the presence of obesity in their patient population. Staff will also learn measures to prevent injury and provide safe patient care.

From the perspective of body systems, authors explore the unique effects of obesity on the cardiovascular system, the pulmonary system, the skin, and nutrition. Authors also explore the disease burden associated with obesity in patients following cardiovascular surgery and trauma. The articles on pain and sedation contain important information for all nurses caring for critically ill patients.

The authors have done an excellent job in gleaming key findings from the current literature. It is evident, however, that more research is needed in this area. This is especially true with regard to the morbidly obese patient.

It is expected that readers will come away from this issue of *Critical Care Nursing Clinics* with a deeper appreciation of the impact of obesity in the critical care setting. Nurses will gain a better understanding of current evidence-based practices for use when intervening in this patient population. It is hoped that some nurses will be inspired to further study the area of critically ill obese patients to generate new knowledge and move us forward.

Linda Harrington, PhD, RN, CNS, CPHQ
Vice President for Advancing Nursing Practice
Baylor Health Care System
Office of the CNO, Suite 600
Bryan Tower, Dallas, TX 75201, USA

E-mail address:
Linda.harrington@gmail.com