

Foreword



Lee A. Fleisher, MD
Consulting Editor

Chronic pain management has taken on increasing importance for the general public. A large percentage of our health care expenditures are focused on treatment of chronic pain syndromes. It has become increasingly recognized that the treatment of chronic pain conditions extends beyond the traditional silos within departments or subspecialties and, in fact, a more interdisciplinary approach is often required to provide the patient with optimal care. For these reasons, *Medical Clinics of North America* has recently published a two-volume series on chronic pain edited by an anesthesiologist, Howard S. Smith, MD. Given the outstanding quality of this series and the importance of chronic pain treatment to anesthesiologists, I and the publishers of the *Clinics* series felt that selected articles from this series published in the *Anesthesiology Clinics* would be of tremendous value to our readership.

Howard S. Smith, MD is uniquely qualified to bring together an interdisciplinary issue on pain management that would be of value to the anesthesiologist. Smith is a graduate of the Chicago Medical School and completed both his anesthesiology residency and fellowship in pain management at Albany Medical College, where he is currently the Academic Director of Pain Management in the Department of Anesthesiology and Associate Professor of Anesthesiology. He is board-certified in internal medicine and anesthesiology and has certification in pain management and hospice and palliative medicine. He is Chair of the Training and Education Committee of the American Pain Society and a member of numerous other subspecialty

groups. He has enlisted an excellent group of authors, whose writings will help educate us on this important topic.

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