Preface

Orthopedic Anesthesia

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The practice of orthopedic anesthesiology has evolved over the past two decades to encompass many different orthopedic surgery service lines. The practice of the subspecialty is naturally diverse and covers all aspects of the perioperative continuum of care. The skill set required by the modern orthopedic anesthesiologist ranges from caring for geriatric patients with multiple comorbidities presenting urgently for operative repair of femur fractures, or electively for joint replacement, to caring for young healthy individuals presenting for a variety of sports injuries or trauma. Practice settings run the gamut from ambulatory surgery centers to inpatient care in intensive care units. Orthopedic anesthesiologists often use regional anesthesia techniques and may lead acute pain medicine services or get involved with hospital administration in setting up clinical care pathways. In many ways, orthopedic anesthesiologists are poised to lead in modeling the perioperative surgical home initiative promoted by the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

Given this diversity in practice and many recent advances in the field, we have dedicated this issue of *Anesthesiology Clinics* to present topics and updates specifically in orthopedic anesthesiology. This issue serves as a comprehensive evidence-based manual of orthopedic anesthesiology that can be used regularly for reference whenever clinical or systems-based challenges arise in practice. This compilation of articles addresses many frequently asked questions related to preoperative evaluation, setting up acute pain service, and setting up an ambulatory regional anesthesia program. Also included are tips and strategies for caring for orthopedic trauma patients or those with chronic opioid use. Some of the articles included in this issue provide suggestions for designing protocols for falls prevention and the perioperative management of patients presenting for repair of hip fractures or total joint arthroplasty. In addition, we have included timely topics, such as the latest evidence on how regional anesthesia may affect cancer recurrence, infection, and inflammation, and the evidence to support the use of ultrasound in the practice of regional anesthesia.

We are excited to have such an illustrious group of experts from around the United States contributing to this issue, sharing their experience, and discussing up-to-date evidence-based strategies to tackle key questions about orthopedic anesthesia. We are so grateful for their willingness to share their experience and for donating their time and effort. We also wish to thank our spouses and families for their unconditional and relentless support.

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