Foreword

Anesthesiologists as Clinical Neuroscientists—One Future for Our Specialty

Lee A. Fleisher, MD, FACC, FAHA
Consulting Editor

When you ask a candidate for an anesthesiology residency why they chose the field, they frequently cite their interest in clinical pharmacology and physiology. However, when you consider the mechanism of action of the agents we utilize to achieve anesthesia, the title of clinical neuroscientist should also be included. The neuroscience underlying the mechanisms of anesthesia, care of the neurosurgical patient, and neuromonitoring has advanced significantly over the past several decades and warrants a thorough discussion for all practicing anesthesiologists.

The Society for Neuroscience in Anesthesiology and Critical Care (SNACC) has been an active multidisciplinary organization focusing on advancing the art and science of the care of the neurologically impaired patient through education, training, and research in perioperative neuroscience. After the decision to commission an issue on this topic was made, it was clear that SNACC was the ideal partner. W. Andrew Kofke, MD, MBA, the current President of SNACC, accepted the position of Editor of the issue. He is Professor and Director Neuroscience in Anesthesiology and Critical Care Program and Co-Director of Neurocritical Care at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. He is also an NIH-funded investigator in the area of neuroscience. He has commissioned an outstanding group of fellow Board

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members of SNACC as the Section Editors for the issue. The issue provides a guide to the current state-of-the-art, science, and care around the complex issues of neuroanesthesia and critical care.

Lee A. Fleisher, MD, FACC, FAHA
Perelman School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania
3400 Spruce Street, Dulles 680
Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

E-mail address:

Lee.Fleisher@uphs.upenn.edu