Preface

Monitoring: Back to the Future

Gabriella Iohom, MD, PhD

Girish P. Joshi, MBBS, MD, FFARCSI

Editors

Monitoring, derived from the Latin *monere* (to warn), meaning continuous measurement of variables over time, is core to the delivery of anesthesia and perioperative care. Currently, the utility of basic standard monitoring is universally accepted as part of a complex man-machine interaction and feedback system aimed at keeping the patient within safe physiologic limits. Perioperative care has always been intimately associated with technological advancements to augment postoperative recovery. Although it may be coincidental, many experts cite improved monitoring as one of the reasons for improved patient safety and perioperative outcomes, as well as enhanced recovery after surgery.

Technological innovation continues to transform perioperative care, and there is much promise for the novel monitors. However, as stated by Albert Einstein (1879-1955): “Not everything that counts can be counted and not everything that can be counted counts.” More information is not necessarily always better, but rather the right information must be collected at the right time, interpreted correctly, and acted upon effectively followed by reevaluation. New technology has the potential to become “standard” only if it improves patient outcome in addition to improved patient safety, reliability, and cost-effectiveness.

While the list of topics in this issue of *Anesthesiology Clinics* is far from exhaustive, it provides welcome insights into many exciting innovations in the field without overshadowing embedded standards of monitoring. We are grateful to the authors for their valuable contribution generously delivered amid a global pandemic. We also wish to thank Lee A. Fleisher for the invitation to guest edit this issue, and Elsevier staff, Ms Joanna M. Collett, and Ms Arlene Campos for their support.

We hope you will find this issue enjoyable, informative, and thought provoking.

Gabriella Iohom, MD, PhD
Department of Anaesthesiology and
Intensive Care Medicine
Cork University Hospital
University College Cork
Wilton Road
Cork T12DC4A, Ireland

Girish P. Joshi, MBBS, MD, FFARCSI
Department of Anesthesiology and
Pain Management
University of Texas
Southwestern Medical School
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard
Dallas, TX 75390, USA

E-mail addresses:

giohom@ucc.ie (G. Iohom)
girish.joshi@utsouthwestern.edu (G.P. Joshi)