Preface

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Editors

It has been our privilege to bring together this collection of articles on key issues in obstetrical anesthesiology. The last issue of *Anesthesiology Clinics* devoted to obstetrical anesthesia was published in 2017. So much has changed in the intervening years, reflecting the increasingly significant impact that skilled and informed anesthesiologists can have on improving maternal care. As our pregnant patients are becoming more medically complex, our management of obstetrical anesthesia has also become more tailored, nuanced, and impactful. We are appreciating ways we can influence the difference between good obstetrical anesthesia care and excellent obstetrical anesthesia care.

One tangible acknowledgment of the value of excellent obstetrical care was the establishment in 2018 of the Society of Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology Centers of Excellence. This competitive designation is awarded to institutions and programs that have implemented programming and invested in resources to offer the highest possible quality of obstetrical anesthesia care, nationally and internationally.

The articles in this issue were chosen to reflect topics whereby anesthesiologists contribute to truly exceptional obstetrical care. Together, they offer some historic perspective and are important updates from known experts. Most importantly, they are meant to inspire our readers to think about ways we anesthesiologists can be innovative clinicians, and effective leaders in collaborative teams, system improvements, and collective learning.

We would like to thank Dr Lee Fleisher for entrusting us with editing this issue, and to our publishing partners, Arlene Campos and Joanna Collette, who demonstrated enormous patience throughout this process. It was a true pleasure to work with them on this endeavor.

Finally, we need to thank our individual authors, for whom this issue became a labor of love during the unprecedented professional and personal challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Anesthesiologists across the world rose to the occasion, flexing and pivoting to meet rapidly evolving clinical needs. For obstetrical anesthesiologists, the patients kept coming; there was never an option to cancel “elective” cases. We are so grateful to our authors for making this *Anesthesiology Clinics* project a priority. Their

dedication is truly a gift to fellow clinicians who strive to bring their absolute best to the care of every obstetrical patient, every day, everywhere.

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