

# Foreword

Surgical Technology International, Volume 24, March, 2014

It is my privilege to be asked to write the forward for this comprehensive and practical compendium that is the XXIV Edition of Surgical Technology International. The depth and variety of topics that are discussed in the Edition are beyond the scope of one surgeon to understand or do justice to. In the area wound care alone this publication encompasses a significant amount of the cutting edge knowledge in the field. Across the spectrums of general surgery, gynecology, orthopedics, wound healing and cardiovascular surgery the newest technologies are interspersed with tried and true therapies. All being compiled by leaders in their fields that really do the work they are writing about.

The benefits to our patients from the potential sharing of these technologies is significant. From the seemingly simple addition of the instillation of fluid to the well-known negative pressure device and its effect on healing to the role of immunonutrition on the surgical patient their ability to fight infection this type of venue allows for a somewhat unique and important distribution of knowledge. The variety of areas that the surgical specialties continue to explore and push remains amazing to me as well as a source of pride and inspiration. Publications such as this that provide information of specific detail in a variety of sometimes related and sometimes not so related fields allow for a certain cross pollination that is key for technology to lend its true strength to whatever the chosen area is, in this case being surgery.

Many of the fields discussed are in their infancy, such as 3D printing for customizable prosthetics while others, such as hernia repair are fully mature but still have numerous areas of contrast and advancement. As technology advances we see new and sometimes never before thought of applications adapted to disease processes that we didn't even think of, some of these are huge successes; like aortic endografts; while others may be applications searching for equivalency; like carotid stenting. Within the pages/screen you hold in your hands is probably a technology that will be a home run and many that will not. The authors of each section I am sure have tried to combine all the facts that they can muster while using their expertise in each field to bring you a real world practical knowledge of their topic.

The surgeon as the leader and pioneer in the development, application and adoption of new technologies is critical to our patients and the advancement of medicine as a whole. I personally chose both Vascular/Endovascular surgery and Wound Care as dual careers in part due to the opportunity to apply completely innovative technology to truly dogged medical problems. The wide array of topics in this edition of Surgical Technology International will serve not only as a review but hopefully a springboard for those with an interest in the introduction of new technology.

While the editors of Surgical Technology International have developed a wonderful monograph, when reading it one must remember that many of the prospective findings that are discussed, are only available to us because of the improvements in data capture, databases, outcomes analysis and communication that make our trials and investigations run faster and be more complete. Those in industry and Government must remember that the application of such tools has an upfront economic cost just as the medical technologies themselves do; but the ultimate goal of Technology in medicine is to make the lives of our patients better and in many ways easier. We as a profession must evaluate these technologies critically and be willing to throw away those that don't work, while demanding comparable efficacy data without squelching the capitalistic process which funds most of these developments. I think the editors of Surgical Technology International have designed this publication with those precepts in mind.

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