

## PREFACE



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*Guest Editors*

The growth of laser technology, in general, and its application to medicine, in particular, have been two of the most remarkable developments within the scientific community during the last three decades. Of special interest to podiatrists has been the use of lasers in cutaneous and soft tissue surgery as well as its potential use in osseous surgery.

This issue of *Clinics in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery* brings together acknowledged experts from multivariate disciplines to discuss the history, basic science, state-of-the-art techniques, and future applications of laser surgery in the podiatric practice. These experts in laser physics and surgery have engaged in the requisite research to establish the legitimacy of this field and to elevate the discussion from purely anecdotal to hard science. The timeliness of their selected topics and their ability to communicate the relevance and dynamics of this burgeoning field are evident throughout this issue.

The classic tension between art and science is nowhere more evident than at the interface between long-standing clinical dilemmas and avant-garde technology. Laser surgery is on the cutting edge of this interface. We hope that the information disseminated in this issue will both stimulate significant research and culminate in the highest level of patient care.

The guest editors would like to thank their colleagues for their contributions to this issue. Their effort, insight, and professionalism transformed an otherwise daunting task into a rewarding and memorable experience.

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