

Foreword

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It is an honor and privilege to write a short forward to this edition of Surgical Technology International. The book describes new technologies in multiple specialties that enable us to perform safer procedures with a quicker recovery. These new technologies give us the ability to do things never even imagined in the past.

However, physicians always need to remember that technology companies are driven by profit. It is our responsibility to follow the literature to determine that use of these expensive technologies actually does produce better outcomes. We cannot rely on the companies selling the product to do this since there is a conflict of interest.

In addition, physicians need to avoid conflicts of interest. It is ethically unacceptable to use a new technology if well-controlled clinical trials show no better outcomes. Regardless of the tools used, what is absolutely critical is knowledge of the anatomy, variances in anatomy and the learned ability to dissect tissue planes safely. Our surgical skills are directly related to education, practice, continued study and the volume of surgeries performed.

So, enjoy this edition that does an outstanding job describing new technologies and techniques. Also remember that it is our responsibility to provide our patients with the best care possible at reasonable costs. I am proud to be associated with this publication whose editors clearly support these essential concepts.

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