

Preface



Christopher J. Winfree, MD



Robert J. Spinner, MD

Guest Editors

Consecutive issues of *Neurosurgery Clinics of North America* highlight “what’s new” in peripheral nerve surgery. Significant recent advances have been made in the management of peripheral nerve entrapments and tumors (featured in Part I), as well as injuries (including wartime injuries) and neuro-pathic pain (featured in Part II). Novel experimental strategies, which hold tremendous promise for translational applications (reviewed in Part II), are currently being tested.

We fully acknowledge that “what’s new” is not necessarily “what’s better.” Time, along with well-designed outcome studies, will determine this. Certain things that are new turn out to be fads or even failures. Sometimes, what’s new is realizing that the old paradigm is better. Over time, some new developments automatically and appropriately become adopted as major advances. We also realize that people react differently to new ideas—some with infectious enthusiasm, some with cautious optimism, and others with frank skepticism. Therefore, we have tried to feature specific controversial topics

in a balanced fashion, allowing the reader to be the judge.

We present this two-part series with excitement. It represents a celebration of peripheral nerve surgery—its rich past and its bright future.

Christopher J. Winfree, MD
Department of Neurological Surgery
Columbia University Medical Center
710 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032, USA

Robert J. Spinner, MD
Departments of Neurologic Surgery
and Orthopedics
Mayo Clinic
200 First Street West
Rochester, MN 55905, USA

E-mail addresses:
cjw12@columbia.edu (C.J. Winfree)
spinner.robert@mayo.edu (R.J. Spinner)