The title of this preface may be confusing for some not involved in the treatment of children with cleft lip and palate and other craniofacial disorders. However, in order for surgeons of any specialty to be intimately involved with treating children with cleft lip and palate, we must understand all of the related areas of concern regarding cleft lip and palate.

In this issue of *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America*, we attempted to address some major issues associated with cleft lip and palate. The surgeon entering the care of patients with cleft lip and palate and perhaps not originally trained to treat these children needs to understand the aspects of prenatal diagnosis, feeding, postoperative care, and speech issues caused by cleft palate, including diagnosis and treatment, audologic issues, secondary rhinoplasties, and the truly difficult part of treating children with cleft lip and palate—funding for patients who have inadequate insurance coverage.

There have been several issues of *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America* prior to this one that addressed the technical aspects of cleft lip and palate closure, but in this issue, we truly focused our attention on some of the more vague aspects of patients with cleft lip and palate.

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