It is an honor to once again serve as the guest editor for an issue of the *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America*, and I would like to thank the Editor, Mr John Vassallo, for giving me the opportunity to do so. In the field of dentistry, the monthly publication of the *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America* is one of the main sources of information for both new graduates and the already practicing professionals. I hope that the articles in this issue arouse interest in all the possibilities of the intraoral surgical approach.

The focus of this issue of the *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America* is focused on advanced intraoral procedures, which, in and of themselves, are not new but are not regularly performed by most oral and maxillofacial surgeons, and which go beyond routine dentoalveolar surgery. The various articles presented incorporate many disciplines within the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery. These procedures range from pathologic condition, reconstructive surgery, implants, and facial cosmetic surgery to discussions on mouth gags and the use of laser and piezoelectric devices. Transoral trauma surgery was not included because it would have been too wide a subject to cover in this issue.

The articles on cystectomy and intraoral parotidectomy present new and novel approaches to the traditional ones that have been used previously. Bone grafting procedures for implants and alveolar clefts are presented in a conventional discussion. Pathologic conditions covered are the removal of the sublingual gland and closure of the oroantral fistula. I was also very pleased to be able to include articles on buccal fat pad flap and lingual nerve repair since these topics have not been covered for some time. Lip augmentation and management of the gummy smile are presented by prestigious program directors with vast experience in the field. Mouth gags are devices that we routinely use, but we have hardly ever considered the pros and cons of each individual type. Laser and piezoelectric devices are discussed by an author who has used these devices extensively. I decided to include a discussion on uvulopalatopharyngoplasty because it is a controversial topic, and it is hardly used by oral and maxillofacial surgeons.

I was very fortunate to be able to get these well-qualified and busy authors to agree to write...
articles for this issue. They are all very experienced surgeons, and some, like Drs Dierks, Ruggiero, and Costa, have unique professional backgrounds. I offer my sincerest thanks to all the authors for their time and valuable contributions, which point to their dedication toward continuing education in our specialty. I must also congratulate Mr John Vassallo for his management of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America for all these years. His dedication and longevity cannot be diminished. Thanks also to Ms Laura Fisher and Jessica Canaberal, whose hard work helped to make the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America the successful publication that it is. Last, but not least, I must thank my wife, Jacqueline, and other family members, for their support and patience while I worked on readying this issue for publication. I’m also grateful to my coworkers, Drs Harry Dym and Earl Clarkson, with whom I’m always able to have valuable academic discussions and to share experiences. 

I hope that the readers of this issue of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America find this issue a source of invaluable information.

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