Preface

Appreciation

I am privileged and honored to once again have had the opportunity to edit another issue of *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America*. It is truly a pleasure working with Mr. John Vassallo, associate publisher of the *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America* and *Dental Clinics of North America*, as well as Jessica Canaberger, the very capable developmental editor for *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America*. I have worked with John for decades, and what began as a formal and professional relationship has evolved into a strong friendship for which I am truly grateful.

I consider *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America* to be an essential text that brings to our oral and maxillofacial surgical community concise, new, and timely scientific information that is both appropriate and meaningful to the everyday clinician in his or her practice. I wish to thank all the contributors to this issue, dedicated to the pharmacology of drugs commonly used in the treatment of maxillofacial and related conditions, for their successful completion of the tasks assigned. In my opinion, the readership will benefit immensely from these well-executed, clearly delineated articles that review old, well-known, existing medications as well as bring to light some new medications that may prove useful to many of the clinicians.

I would be remiss if I were not to address the events of this past year that have touched and impacted everyone in the community, as it certainly did me and my family.

As I write this preface, the COVID-19 crisis, which seemed to be abating and slowly drawing to a close, has once again been revived by the Delta variant. Unfortunately, it continues to leave in its wake serious financial, personal, and communal disruption, the toll of which will not be truly appreciated for many years to come. Many of us in the oral and maxillofacial surgical community were of course directly impacted; a great percentage of our community of surgeons were forced to either completely close or partially close their offices, and many may have lost loved ones to this dreadful illness or lost staff members, friends, and patients.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Department of Dentistry and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at The Brooklyn Hospital Center, I and my
department were certainly in the eye of the COVID storm. COVID-19 landed squarely in our community, and at one time, we had become completely inundated with COVID inpatients and COVID emergency room patients. Many of my oral and maxillofacial surgical residents became sick, but thankfully, all quickly recovered (though one of my residents made the New York Times while lying on a gurney due to his COVID infection).

I am humbled by my oral and maxillofacial residents and attendings who braved this virus and continued to directly treat our community’s patients’ infections, lacerations, and fractures with the same intensity and dedication that they always exhibited prior to this scourge. I and the entire Brooklyn Hospital administration and community at large owe them a debt of gratitude. In fact, this issue is dedicated to my residents, attendings, and the entire administration and medical community of The Brooklyn Hospital Center, who rose to the occasion and truly demonstrated the highest qualities of healers and community doctors.

I would like to take this opportunity again to acknowledge the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of The Brooklyn Hospital Center, Ms Lizanne Fontaine, who is totally committed to the concept of providing equality of care to all members of our community regardless of their financial abilities. We are fortunate to have her at the helm, and I wish her continued success and only good fortune in the coming years. Mr Gary Terrinoni, our president and CEO, reacted forcefully and adroitly to the complex challenges our institution faced during the height of the COVID crisis. He smartly prioritized and redirected the hospital’s mission to deal with the crisis, saving countless many lives. Mr Robert Aulicino, our COO, Dr Vasantha Kondamudi, our CMO, and Ms Judy McLaughlin, our CNO, all worked tirelessly and innovatively helping to coordinate and lead the dedicated physicians, nurses, and employees during this past year.

I am indebted to the following individuals for a lifetime of friendship and mentorship:

Dr Peter Sherman, who has been mentor, colleague, and one of my dearest of friends for over 40 years. He has always been a beacon of optimism, who encouraged me throughout my career and has guided me both professionally and personally. Dr Earl Clarkson and Dr Orett Ogle, wonderful friends and colleagues for almost 40 years, with special thanks to Dr Clarkson for having administered the oral surgery department during a recent medical leave. Dr Elliot Segal, a lifelong friend and colleague, who generously shares life experiences through enjoyable vignettes. Dr Stanley Bodner, another lifelong friend, who has always provided me with insight and clarity. Arthur Blutstein, for his many years of friendship and sound advice. Rabbis Sadowsky and Goldstein, for their spiritual guidance.

To many of my former residents, who call and text often, Dr Larry Brown, Dr Josh Wolf, Dr Gregg Strull, Dr Tom Cerbone, their ongoing contact is most appreciated.

To my dedicated executive assistant Ms Gloria Stallings, Dr Ricardo Boyce, Dr Earl Clarkson, Dr Ed Woodbine, Dr Michael Chan, and Dr Jared Miller, who so ably helped run and coordinate the dental and oral surgery service during my medical leave, much appreciation is owed.

To my children, Yehoshua, Hindy, Daniel, and Akiva and their spouses, as well as my siblings, Steven and Fayge, for their ongoing concern and love.

Finally, recent life events have only reinforced my love, admiration, and respect for my wife Freidy. Hopefully, we will continue to grow old together, watching our grandchildren mature.

“Helping others find meaning and purpose in their lives is the true meaning and purpose of life.”

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