

Preface

Seeing Past the Horizon



Denisse S. Holcomb, MD F. Gary Cunningham, MD
Editors

We would like to welcome you to this issue of *Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinics of North America* entitled, “A Vision of the Future of Obstetrics and Gynecology.”

In our daily lives as obstetrician-gynecologists, we may sometimes take for granted the discoveries of predecessors that paved the path for the way we practice today. Every moment spent scrubbing before surgeries, we do not stop to consider the groundbreaking work by Ignaz Semmelweis that allowed this act to become so commonplace today.¹ When we turn to obstetrical forceps during prolonged second-stage labors, it is unlikely that our thoughts should wander to the ingenuity of the Chamberlen brothers.² Yet, if it were not for impactful technological advancements such as these, our field would not be where it is today.

The purpose of this issue is twofold: (1) To consider how we have arrived at our current standards within various aspects of obstetrics and gynecology, and (2) to speculate where the future will take us.

In this issue, we have asked authors to report how different aspects of our field will continue to evolve in the future. Topics include the future of gynecologic cancer screening, emerging contraceptive technologies, robotic surgery, fetal surgery, treating infertility, and simulation in obstetrics and gynecology. We explore the ever-evolving use of social media in medicine, the ethics of prenatal genetic diagnosis techniques, future trends in subspecialization within our field, and even life after COVID-19.

We hope that these articles will be thought-provoking and provide special insights into emerging technologies within our field.

Denisse S. Holcomb, MD
University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center in Dallas
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
5939 Harry Hines Boulevard
Dallas, TX 75390, USA

F. Gary Cunningham, MD
University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center in Dallas
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard
Dallas, TX 75390-9032, USA

E-mail addresses:

denisse.holcomb@utsouthwestern.edu (D.S. Holcomb)
gary.cunningham@utsouthwestern.edu (F.G. Cunningham)

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