Thrombosis is clearly the most common cause of mortality and morbidity in the United States and other Western Societies. Thrombosis and thrombotic disorders are no longer the exclusive domain of the hematologist or "coagulationist," but must be viewed as a multidisciplinary medical problem involving almost all medical and many surgical specialties. The specialties commonly involved with thrombosis include hematology, oncology, general internal medicine, family practice, cardiology, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, general, orthopedic, neuro- and vascular surgery, cardiovascular surgery, diagnostic and interventional radiology, and laboratory medicine, to mention a few. Only by approaching clinical thrombosis in this multidisciplinary manner can clear information regarding the causes, pathophysiology, clinical and laboratory/imaging diagnosis and appropriate management of thrombotic problems be developed, and shared among all interested physicians and scientists.

It was with this multidisciplinary goal in mind that in 1994 the International Academy of Clinical and Applied Thrombosis Hemostasis was formed; this growing society is dedicated to a multidisciplinary medical and scientific approach to clinical and applied aspects of thrombosis and hemostasis.

The compilation of this issue of the Medical Clinics of North America serves to emphasize this multidisciplinary approach and hopefully will foster communication among the many disciplines of medicine dealing with thrombosis and foster the sharing of helpful and useful information aimed, ultimately, at rendering improved care for patients with thrombosis.

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