Preface
Continuing Challenges and Unresolved Problems in Hypertensive Diseases

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Editor

This is the sixth issue of the Medical Clinics of North America that I have edited and dedicated to current thinking about hypertension. These issues are dedicated to the continuing history of innovative concepts about the hypertensive diseases, our pathophysiologic understanding of their underlying mechanisms of the related clinical problems, current concepts of their treatment, and alliterations by the selected contributors' personal comprehension of their subjects about which each of them have expressed. Fortunately, I have continued to invite them on the basis of my personal and long-standing knowledge and experience with them and the subject material they discuss for us. I have a continuing and deep appreciation of them for their willingness to join with me in our respective articles of our fundamental material. Each was written with great familiarity and deep conviction.

The earlier issues of the Medical Clinics of North America that I edited were focused exclusively on hypertension and outlived two prior medical publishers. The first two were the publishers of highly reputable authoritative medical literature. The third and current publisher, Elsevier, succeeded them after they retired into their historically highly merited bibliographic positions. Each had been the publisher of several of my other contributions and was led by leaders whom I consider among my best academic friends. The current publisher, Elsevier, introduces this edition during the 101st anniversary of the Medical Clinics. Finally, I add my personal comment that the first publisher, Mr. Lewis Reines, related closely with me in our joint endeavors ever since 1969.

The importance of the subject of hypertension is highly regarded by my coauthors in the “cutting edge” of medical knowledge and practice over the years. In the early years of these Medical Clinics, the treatment of hypertensive diseases was only beginning.
Over the years, public, corporate pharmaceutical industry, and academic overview maintained the necessary continuing expertise in the subject and remained unabated and sustained by the National High Blood Pressure Education Program (of the National Institutes of Health, NIH). This latter and highly esteemed Program was born from the deep commitment of Dr Theodore Cooper, former Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and, later, Secretary of the Department of Education (of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare) and its long-standing and most recent staff, which was headed by Dr Edward Roccella and the NHLBI Directorships of Drs Robert Levy and Claude Lenfant. Without their respective commitment to this Program, our constantly growing knowledge of hypertension would not have been possible. I have enjoyed each of the 32 years that I remained in its service as a contributing member representing either the American Medical Association, the American Heart Association and its Council for High Blood Pressure Research, or the American College of Cardiology over successive years of my tenure. Hence, these six editions of the Medical Clinics of North America are dedicated to all of the contributing authors who have participated in prior issues (some as well cited leaders of their respective representative institutions). They have all supported their respected academic institutions and the knowledge promulgated through their support.

Finally, I want to also express my deep appreciation to my dear friends, teachers, and role models throughout the years. The inspiration, knowledge, and stimulation from each of the following listed below have contributed to the excitement, joy, and utmost satisfaction that I have treasured over the years:

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