

PREFACE

Stroke remains a central, global risk to public health, and a pernicious source of mortality and loss of independence in those afflicted. The preceding decade has seen the transformation of the stroke management landscape, with disruptive diagnostic, therapeutic, prognostic, and rehabilitative strategies rapidly introduced to the armament of clinical and basic stroke neuroscience providers and investigators. Nevertheless, a disappointingly small percentage of stroke patients benefit directly from these advancements, and a staggeringly large percentage of patients remain stricken by consequences of stroke in the modern era.

This text offers a unique view of this condition—a human condition which knows no geographic boundaries and continues to draw the attention of an indefatigable community of physicians, scientists, engineers, nurses, and allied care personnel—synthesizing the latest among contemporary philosophies regarding the care of such patients. The authors address stroke occurring across all epochs of life, beginning in gestation and continuing through childhood, early adulthood, and well into adult life. Similarly, paradigms spanning the prevention, diagnosis, therapy selection, outcome prognostication, and long-term arc of disease in affected patients are discussed in detail throughout the proceeding chapters. In particular, thorough discussions focused upon the *annus mirabilis* of 2015—the year which saw the rescue and resurrection of a struggling, at-risk field of acute stroke intervention (an apt metaphor, perhaps, for a textbook on stroke) besieged by the triptych of failed predecessor trials—provide important context for the present state of stroke care, notably supported by class 1A guidelines in an extraordinary story of scientific and clinical perseverance.

It seems, therefore, timely that such a text introduce the prospective reader to the scope, depth, and complexity of the current state of clinical stroke management. Most importantly, however, among the many objectives of this text is the goal of promoting continued interest and enthusiasm in current and future generations of practitioners and investigators, towards hopefully more objective, long-term improvements in the well-being of stroke patients globally.

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