

PREFACE

Strengthening the Interdisciplinary Continuum of Wound Care

Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a matter of opportunity

—Hippocrates

The opportunity we attempted to seize in committing to produce this volume was to strengthen the interdisciplinary continuum of wound care. Quantum leaps in wound care can come only from effective synchrony between the numerous disciplines the wound care community represents. Given the numerous clinical as well as basic science disciplines involved in developing the science of wound care, this is not a trivial task, and it calls for a strategic approach. Even for accomplished scientists, staying abreast of the latest developments in wound care is a daunting task. It is almost impossible for wound care professionals to closely monitor relevant scientific developments in such a diverse atmosphere. Thus, there is a fast-growing gap between the frontiers of science and the quality of education and patient care.

Wounds represent a major and escalating public health problem.¹ The Wound Healing Society, founded in 1989, is committed to fostering interaction among scientists, physicians, licensed practitioners, industry representatives, and government agencies, with the final objective of improving the care of those suffering from wounds. In 2009, the Society decided to address an unmet need by initiating its first book series aimed at publishing digest articles that would, in straightforward language and simple format, present the essence of the latest discoveries in the field to the broader wound care community. The first in an annual book series, *Advances in Wound Care* addresses the broader wound care community and serves as a

forum for facilitating cross-pollination between disciplines. For the scientist, this volume presents a digest of the clinical aspects of wound care. Such understanding should help improve the translational value of investigator-initiated research. For basic scientists who advance the frontiers of the fundamental sciences of wound healing, this volume should inspire innovative directions. Wound care physicians, nurses, and staff will find the latest discoveries presented in a succinct format. The volume also addresses industry-academia partnership, a key element in motivating inventions and in effectively rolling out novel therapies.

At a time when our nation is fighting multiple wars, we are generating a wealth of information from our battleground experiences. In this opening volume, the spotlight is therefore placed on military wound care. I salute the wound care community of soldiers who contributed to the spotlight section despite their very hectic schedules in a time of war. I am particularly thankful to Dr. Alexander Stojadinovic, COL MIL USA MEDCOM WRAMC, for his help with the spotlight section and book cover.

I extend my sincere thanks to over a hundred volunteers representing different disciplines who gave their time and effort to peer-review chapters of this volume. Special efforts were made to create brief, stylistically uniform chapters that deliver key take-home messages. I hope you enjoy reading this volume as much as I have enjoyed putting the pieces together.

*Chandan K. Sen, Editor-in-Chief
Director, The Ohio State University
Comprehensive Wound Center*

1. Sen CK, Gordillo GM, Roy S, Kirsner R, Lambert L, Hunt TK, Gottrup F, Gurtner GC and Longaker MT. Human skin wounds: A major and snowballing threat to public health and economy. *Wound Repair & Regeneration* 2009 Nov-Dec;17(6):763–71.