Preface: A Farewell Note

Shortly after I became the editor of *Seminars in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* in January 1996, we decided to initiate a companion atlas-type periodical devoted solely to the technical aspects of cardiothoracic surgical procedures. The format would consist of descriptions by recognized experts of exactly how they perform a particular procedure so that the reader could compare the experts' techniques and appreciate their sometimes subtle differences. Thus it was to be a comparative atlas that, because of its being a quarterly periodical, would be more flexible and contemporary than other atlases.

The first issue of *Operative Techniques in Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery* (the original title) appeared in July 1996 and was devoted to complex surgery of the aortic root. Despite producing only two issues that first year, *Operative Techniques in Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery* received the following award:

1996
Best New Journal in Science/Technology/Medicine
Presented by:
Professional/Scholarly Publishing Division
Association of American Publishers

Three years later, the name of the periodical was changed to *Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. This name change coincided with the periodical becoming an official publication of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS), an agreement initiated by Dr. John Waldhausen, editor of *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* (JTCVS), and consummated by Ms. Livia Berardi of W.B. Sanders and Mr. Bill Maloney who represented the interests of the AATS. In 2001, the editorial office was moved to the JTCVS offices in Philadelphia and placed under the auspices of Ms. Pam Fried and her associate Meg Etherington. I am extremely grateful for the tremendous effort that these two wonderful people contributed toward improving the quality of this periodical over the past two years.

Each year, two issues of *Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* are devoted to topics in adult cardiac surgery; one issue is devoted to general thoracic surgery; and one issue, to pediatric cardiac surgery. For the past year, I have enjoyed the benefit of having four Associate Editors, one for each issue. Drs. Tirone David and Thor Sundt have provided yeoman’s work on the two adult cardiac surgery issues and Drs. Alec Patterson and Richard Jonas have done the same for the general thoracic and pediatric cardiac issues, respectively.

Having served as the editor of this periodical for its first seven and one-half years, I felt that it was time for a change in leadership. Fortunately, Dr. Larry Cohn was chosen as the new editor. Dr. Cohn is an experienced and accomplished editor, and no person is more deserving of this important position. I look forward to his taking the journal to new heights in the future and wish him the best of luck in doing so.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my surgical colleagues who have contributed to *Operative Techniques in Thoracic Surgery*, for they are the ones who have made this such a successful periodical.

James L. Cox, M.D.
Editor