

Preface

Modern endodontic practice



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The purpose of this issue of the *Dental Clinics of North America* is to inform our dental colleagues about the advancements of the theories and techniques of modern nonsurgical endodontics. The microscope, nickel–titanium rotary file systems, and the electronic apex locator have profoundly changed endodontic techniques. As a result, the modern endodontic specialty practice has little resemblance to the traditional endodontic practice. We, at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn), have been very fortunate to assemble a group of young, forward-looking clinicians and academicians from around the world to establish truly modern endodontic treatment concepts and modalities. It has been a global effort. Many of these Penn Endo graduates, who contributed significantly to the advancements while at Penn, are now teaching and practicing in different parts of the world and have shared their ideas, experiences, and philosophies generously for this issue. They are not only experts in their field in their countries but many are also pioneers in this changing field. For that, this editor is extremely grateful.

The first article describes the way modern endodontics is practiced in an endodontic specialty practice, briefly touching on the subject matter of each article. In subsequent articles, the authors discuss the new generation of instruments and new techniques in significant detail so that the readers can develop a working understanding of the techniques. The clinical benefits of the new treatment modalities far exceed our expectations. Cases are completed with greater precision, in less time, and with far fewer flare-ups between visits. It is the rare patient who experiences discomfort or clinical

complications. Twenty-first century endodontics is no longer the most dreaded experience anyone can imagine, but mostly a pain-free, efficient procedure with a predictably successful outcome.

I hope that readers share our excitement about the truly “new and improved” endodontics and our commitment to its practice.

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