



## Foreword

**W**ELCOME TO *Neurocritical Care 2003: Here Comes the Sun—A Global Summit on Critical Care for Cerebrovascular Disease*. This supplement to the *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine* contains the proceedings of the summit, which took place September 5 and 6, 2003, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Critical care medicine developed in the 1970s and 1980s at the same time that tremendous advances were being made in our understanding and treatment of myocardial ischemia. Neurocritical care developed in the 1980s and 1990s during the decade of the brain, concurrent with great progress in cerebrovascular neurology and neurosurgery. Today, there is a convergence of vascular neurology, vascular neurosurgery, and neurocritical care to the point where brain ischemia can be diagnosed with stunning precision and reperfusion therapy started immediately. Patients today can be managed by a team of specialists in the neurological intensive care unit, where blood flow and hemodynamics can be optimized to achieve the best possible outcome.

The success of our neurocritical care conferences illustrates this convergence. Our first international conference, *Neurocritical Care 2001: Returning from the Dark Side of the Brain*, focused on multimodal monitoring and hypothermia. Despite occurring just 2 weeks after the tragic events of September 11, *Neurocritical Care 2001* was well attended by people from around the world and was met with great enthusiasm. With *Neurocritical Care 2003*, we broadened the scope of topics, reviewing intracranial pressure, in many ways the *raison d'être* for neurocritical care, as well as hemorrhagic stroke, the fundamentals of neurocritical care, and acute ischemic stroke.

We hope you will share our enthusiasm in learning about new areas of study and discovery in critical care for cerebrovascular disease and plan on joining us at this year's conference, *Neurocritical Care 2004: Imagine*.

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