PREFACE

This issue of Radiologic Clinics of North America is designed to familiarize and update the general radiologist with guidelines on how to interpret head and neck examinations. In my instructions to the contributors to this issue, I asked them to emphasize the clinical issues associated with lesions rather than specific imaging characteristics. As head and neck radiologists, we are relatively infrequently asked "What is this?" Instead, most of the clinical questions deal with a lesion's resectability, operative approach, position relative to vital structures, and deep extent. Invariably, a mass is biopsied or aspirated, so all of our "differential diagnosis conjecture" is tossed as the pathologist weighs in. I, therefore, tried to orient this issue to the type of clinical problems the reader is asked to address when interpreting head and neck studies.

I want to thank all of the authors who were so enthusiastic about participating in this issue and so prompt in meeting deadlines. The quality of the articles testifies to the world class talent contributing to this edition of Radiologic Clinics of North America.

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DAVID M. YOUSEM, MD
Guest Editor

Department of Radiology
University of Pennsylvania Medical Center
3400 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104