Foreword

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The development of new surgical technology has revolutionized the specialty of orthopaedic surgery and more significantly the lives of our elderly patients. During the past 40 years the development of highly successful total joint arthroplasty for the knee and hip have achieved goals that were beyond the comprehension of orthopaedic surgeons in the 1960’s. Failure rates of less than 1% at 10 years for total hip arthroplasty and less than 2-3% for total knee arthroplasty are now common place in centers dedicated to joint reconstruction. Innovative surgeons are now struggling to improve these breath-taking statistics and, indeed, are exploring operations that may preserve the human joint before replacement is considered. These are the stated areas of focus of the orthopaedic section of Surgical Technology International.

The editors have selected topics of great interest and authors who are not only innovative, but have the capacity to place new developments in their proper context and perspective.

In a field such as joint reconstruction where the failure rate at the end of one or two decades is minimal, it is incumbent upon practitioners to carefully examine new data and to compare clinical trials with other accepted surgical modalities and with the natural course of the disease. Prospective controlled randomized studies become essential to define the cost benefit ratio of new technology.

The readers of this section are fortunate to have the benefit of the wisdom accumulated by the authors over many years presented in an articulate and concise fashion. I believe that these articles will become classics and will withstand the scrutiny and passage of time.