

## Preface

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There are currently few well-accepted standards for patient management after implantation of prosthetic devices. Few research studies have documented patient benefit from postimplantation care, as measured by extended patient survival time, device function, or improved quality of life. *The Bionic Human: Health Promotion for People With Implanted Prosthetic Devices* is intended to provide clinicians with guidance regarding the follow-up of these patients by compiling the strategies recommended by acknowledged experts. Current strategies of practicing clinicians and the factors influencing variability in current practice are reviewed in the chapters dealing with particular prosthetic devices. Both currently available and promising new diagnostic tests are evaluated. Some of the consequences of device failure are explained. Concluding each of these chapters are counterpoints from distinguished authors at major centers in the United States and Europe. The followup recommendations provided by experts at each institution are summarized in standardized format, which should encourage comparative analysis and stimulate discussion. We hope this will lay the foundation for controlled clinical trials and the eventual establishment of evidence-based guidelines on which consensus can be based.

One difficulty we encountered in putting together this book was in the selection of devices that could feasibly be included in this first edition. Common ones, such as intraocular lenses, and rare ones, such as diaphragm-pacing systems, although excluded from the current edition, are candidates for inclusion in the next edition.

The image on the book cover is derived from an original work of art by Cameron Slayden. It graced the cover of the February 8, 2002, issue of *Science*, the official journal of the American Association for the Advancement of *Science* (AAAS). The publisher, editors, and authors are grateful to the AAAS for allowing us to use this image.

We take great personal satisfaction in the completion of this project, as it is one so long overdue. We extend thanks to Dr. Arthur Baue for his input and guidance. We also express our gratitude to Ms. Judy Feldworth, who served as editorial assistant on the project. She accomplished the mammoth task of copyediting all manuscripts, ensuring consistency in style and format throughout with intelligence, skill, and good humor. The book could not have been completed without her hard work and attention to detail. We also thank Mrs. Michele Graser, who helped with the required correspondence and other organizational matters. Her computer skills were useful every step of the way. Her calm, competent personality helped keep the contributors from losing their tempers and the editors from losing their minds.

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Devices

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