
Foreword

Dialysis from its earliest days had its foundations in both science and clinical medicine. The Scottish chemist Thomas Graham, known as the “Father of Dialysis” provided a scientific description of solute diffusion. Georg Haas, at the University of Giessen near Frankfurt am Main, performed the first (albeit clinically unsuccessful) dialysis treatments involving humans. Later, Willem Kolff, working under extraordinary conditions in the Netherlands, pioneered the first clinically successful dialytic treatment of a patient with acute kidney injury. A half century ago, Belding Scribner and colleagues pioneered the wider application of dialysis as a therapy for irreversible kidney failure, by providing a means for repetitive access to the circulation without the destruction of blood vessels. In the past five decades, the use of dialysis as a life sustaining therapy has expanded both in the USA and globally, to a degree likely beyond the comprehension of the early pioneers. Today over 60 nations provide universal access to maintenance dialysis, and more than a million people receive dialysis each year worldwide. Truly clinical necessity has been the mother of dialysis invention and innovation.

There exist many tomes that comprehensively cover the technical aspects of delivering dialysis therapy, along with the clinical care of patients on dialysis. Additionally, there are handbooks on dialysis which now cover all of the “how-to” practical aspects needed for immediate management decisions. Yet there remains a gap in information that this book covers—namely this text fills a need for a succinct coverage of the core concepts around renal replacement therapy inclusive of hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and continuous therapies. Moreover this book provides timely and authoritative reviews from leading experts in the field. It also brings an international flavor by recruiting authors from around the world, reflecting global issues and needs. The target audience? Nephrologists and informed generalists. I congratulate the editors and authors for covering the clinical art and techne of dialysis, and for a job well done.

Jonathan Himmelfarb, MD

Core Concepts in Dialysis and Continuous Therapies

Magee, C.C.; Tucker, J.K.; Singh, A.K. (Eds.)

2016, XI, 292 p. 89 illus., 37 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4899-7655-0