



Preface



Wandria Dallas, MN, APRN, AGCNS-BC
Editor

A stroke can happen to anyone at any time. Every year, nearly 800,000 Americans suffer a stroke. Despite improvements in stroke treatment in the United States, stroke remains the second leading cause of death worldwide. Stroke is also the third-leading cause of death and disability combined. Worldwide, the annual rate of stroke is 15 million. Of these, 3 million die and another 3 million are left permanently disabled. Stroke occurs every 40 seconds. Rapid and effective evaluation, identification, diagnosis, and treatment of stroke are vital in decreasing stroke morbidity and mortality. Stroke is a disease that is 85% preventable.

Stroke prevention is related to the management of other health conditions and disparities. Age trends, geographic locations, and access to care challenge the professional care of stroke.

The community relies on their health care providers to direct them in matters of their personal health. Nurses and other health care professionals are expected to actively participate in educating their patients and the community to understand stroke and the care provided. Nurses and other health care professionals need to be educated regarding new developments and complex issues in the management of stroke.

This issue of *Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America* is dedicated nurses and other health care professionals who care for stroke. The topics are designed to increase the understanding of stroke pathophysiology, assist to accurately perform,

and interpret the assessed needs of stroke, and apply evidence-based practice for improved stroke outcomes.

Wandria Dallas, MN, APRN, AGCNS-BC
Ochsner Louisiana State
University Health Shreveport
1541 Kings Highway
Shreveport, LA 71103, USA

E-mail address:

wandria.dallas@ochsnerlsuhs.org