

FOREWORD

Despite nearly 20 years of clinical experience with MRI, new instrumentation, new technologies, and new applications continue to emerge at a staggering rate. Understanding the technological change—the new techniques—and implementing them effectively in the clinical setting—poses a vexing challenge for many MR users, physicians and technologists alike. In some instances, this has led to a reluctance by radiologists to implement new techniques and has limited the range of examinations offered, and, equally importantly, has resulted in the performance capabilities of current MR systems not being fully utilized in clinical settings. The rate of change in technical approaches is daunting as well. The abundance of new software capabilities and their continual modification serve as a further barrier, discouraging many in the field from using the most updated versions.

In this context, *Current Protocols in Magnetic Resonance Imaging* is a welcome addition. The volume contains thorough descriptions of protocols and technical approaches to MRI applications throughout the body. The chapters are clearly organized, with step-by-step details of scan protocols. Concise tables are provided highlighting the key parameters, and succinct descriptions are provided of clinical issues which may effect the scan protocols in individual situations. Dr. Haacke has assembled a most talented group of experts to provide their current protocols as well as the rationale for their implementation.

An intriguing feature of the current text is the commitment to ongoing quarterly updates, so that the readers can be assured of continuing to have state-of-the-art approaches in areas of clinical MR applications. This will allow MR users a reliable way to understand and implement the latest approaches in MR imaging. This text should prove to be a valuable reference that is found in scan control rooms around the world.

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