The mantra of emergency medicine is “A-B-C,” airway, breath sounds, circulation, and it is no surprise why. These represent the fastest causes of death—loss of airway, inadequate breathing, and compromised circulation—and consequently they represent the first priorities in resuscitation. It is noteworthy that two of these three components focus on the respiratory status of the patient. Loss of airway function and compromise of lung function are the most rapid killers in emergency medicine, and so it is appropriate that they receive the first and foremost attention in acute resuscitation. Quite simply, if a provider possesses clinical excellence with the “A” and the “B,” then lives are saved. Conversely, if a provider lacks skills in the “A” and the “B,” then patients die...very quickly.

In this issue of *Emergency Medicine Clinics of North America*, critical care experts Drs Haney Mallemat and Terren Trott have brought together a panel of experts in resuscitation to advance our skills in the management of airway and respiratory emergencies. Articles focus on both basic and advanced airway management techniques and challenges. Articles also focus on the challenge of managing patients on ventilators. Ventilatory management in past decades has been of lesser importance for emergency physicians, but with increased emergency department boarding this past decade, it has become more important than ever for us to know basic as well as advanced ventilatory management, and these articles fit the bill perfectly.

The authors also address specific high-risk diseases, including right ventricular failure, pulmonary infections, pulmonary embolism, and reactive airway disease. A separate article also focuses on special procedures for patients with pulmonary disease.

This issue of *Emergency Medicine Clinics of North America* is a must-read for every emergency physician. Regardless of years of experience, readers will find life-saving pearls and learn practice-changing tips to improve patient care on a daily basis. Our
sincerest thanks go to Dr Mallemat, Dr Trott, and their outstanding set of authors for providing this amazing resource to us all.

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