Cardiac Arrhythmia Management
A Practical Guide for Nurses and Allied Professionals
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Dedications

To my husband Boris, my son Feliks, and my parents for their encouragement, love, support, and many sacrifices. To all my teachers for their wisdom and inspiration.
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Over the last three decades, we have witnessed a remarkable expansion and maturation of the fields of cardiac electrophysiology, ablation, pacing, and defibrillation. This has resulted in a core of highly skilled nurses, physician assistants, technicians, and industry-employed allied professionals assuming a larger and increasing important role in the clinical care of patients with arrhythmias. Given the considerable progress in the clinical evaluation and management of patients, the need has emerged for a comprehensive educational resource to ensure the highest quality of care. Cardiac Arrhythmia Management: A Practical Guide for Nurses and Allied Professionals merits particular recognition as it uniquely fulfills this need. It represents a timely and novel contribution that should be considered essential for all health care professionals involved in the care of patients with heart rhythm disorders.

Amin Al-Ahmad, MD, Paul J. Wang, MD, Andrea Natale, MD, Angela Tsiperfal, RN, NP, Linda Ottoboni, RN, MS, and Salwa Beheiry, RN, as editors, have masterfully selected topics and authors to produce an essential educational resource. All sections, including those on anatomy, physiology, arrhythmia mechanisms, pacemakers, defibrillators, pediatric arrhythmias, syncope, sudden death, and ethical issues, are superbly written by leading clinical educators. The case-based approach supplements the didactic materials. This allows the practical application of both clinical and technical knowledge to the individual case. As always, this markedly enhances information retention and clinical utility.

The editors and authors are to be congratulated for producing this unique, practical, and comprehensive book. All interested in improving their knowledge and skills related to arrhythmias, ablation, pacing, and defibrillation should consider it an essential resource. With mastery of its content, all health care professionals will meaningfully improve their ability to ensure optimal patient outcomes.

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The role of allied professionals in providing care to patients with cardiac rhythm management devices is constant yet dynamic. While this statement may seem paradoxical, its truth is self-evident to all who work in this rapidly growing subspecialty within cardiology.

One has only to look at the history of cardiac electrophysiology to discern the truth of constancy amid innovation. Today’s devices are a testament to the visions of scientists who, working in concert with engineers and medical professionals, have produced devices that are life saving and life enhancing. Innovative catheter-based technologies and cardiac rhythm management devices present new challenges. As visions become reality and theory is applied to clinical practice, new operational features are assessed, evaluated, and integrated to ensure the provision of safe, optimal patient care.

Our goal always has and always shall be providing safe and optimal patient care. Daily, we strive to incorporate how to best assess available evolving therapies and an ever-expanding array of physiologically based device features and device-based diagnostic data as we evaluate patients “in person” and “remotely.” Efforts to contain health care costs impact us and we are expected to be not only proficient but also efficient. We seek to apply scientific principles as we navigate and plum the depths of devices, their programmers, and remote Web sites to evaluate data and ensure devices are optimally programmed to meet the needs of individual patients. How to assess and address the unique challenges of device-based care permeate this text, which integrates the theoretical and the practical. In this regard, the text for allied professionals espouses and exemplifies the standards of professional practice for allied professionals in pacing and electrophysiology (Gura et al. 2003).

Devices represent only one of the varied therapy options. The challenges to understand and apply technology to the management of life-threatening/life-altering arrhythmias in patients are vast. A thorough understanding of arrhythmia mechanisms provides an essential foundation for identifying the most appropriate technique for patient treatment. Advanced diagnostic testing creates additional patient-specific information that results in an optimal treatment decision. Within the electrophysiological procedure and ablation, innovative technological achievements have simplified