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INTRODUCTION

The “state of the art” in dermatologic surgery is a constantly fluid, ever-evolving concept that continually expands to meet the needs of patients and practitioners alike. Within the realm of lasers, lights, and energy devices, technology rapidly changes

from year to year, constantly harnessing new energy sources and delivering them to new targets, in order to effectively treat an array of patients and indications wider than could have ever been imagined just a decade or two ago. In the face of exciting development, growing demand, and a sea of opportunity, stands the dermatologic surgeon, whose role is to learn, interpret, and apply the growing mountains of data in order to deliver effective yet safe care to the patient. In this issue of *Seminars in Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery*, aptly titled “Lasers, Lights, and Energy Devices: State of the Art,”

we aim to provide a concise, yet thorough review of the state of the art in laser-, light-, and energy-based therapy, while also providing critical analyses of each technology; we hope this special issue will enable our readers to make informed, evidence-based decisions in real-world practice in order to provide excellent, innovative care to their patients.

Our expert contributors compiled the data and synthesized them with their own clinical experiences in the drafting of each article in order to present the most up-to-date and groundbreaking, yet clinically adaptable, technology in the field of device-based dermatologic surgery. In this issue, we delve into the dynamic arena of body contouring by objectively analyzing the evidence regarding minimally invasive treatments for cellulite, submental fat, and body fat. We discuss noninvasive therapeutic approaches to the treatment of skin laxity and the physiological changes each treatment modality induces. Our authors elucidate the latest advances in millisecond, nanosecond, and picosecond laser technologies and their applications. Fractionated laser energy and its utility in the

treatment of photoaging, disorders of pigmentation, and scarring is discussed. Finally, the latest advances in laser-assisted drug delivery are collated herein to give a glimpse of the horizons towards which laser surgeons are swiftly advancing.

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As the numbers of lasers and energy devices continue to increase, as will the demand for these highly publicized, widely marketed services, it is the duty of the dermatologic surgeon to be familiar with the evidence that stands behind the curtains of retail showmanship and commercialism. We, as learned practitioners, will be expected to remain on the forefront of knowledge of these devices, and it is our hope that this special issue aids in that process. As such, we are humbly indebted to our expert contributors to this issue. The success of any endeavor depends on the contribution and col-

laboration of every participant, every gear, and every brushstroke. We thank the artists, the masters, and the experts for their contributions to this issue. We are grateful for your wisdom and expertise in bringing to fruition: “Lasers, Lights, and Energy Devices: State of the Art.”

Omer Ibrahim, MD^{1*}
Jeffrey S. Dover, MD, FRCPC²
Kenneth A Arndt, MD³
SkinCare Physicians
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

*Dr Ibrahim is now with Chicago Cosmetic Surgery and Dermatology, Chicago, Illinois
¹oibrahim@chicagodermatology.com
²jdover@skincarephysicians.net
³karndt@skincarephysicians.net

