



Focused series on interventional pulmonology and advanced bronchoscopy

We are pleased to present the readers of *Shanghai Chest* with this focused series covering updates and advances in the field of interventional pulmonology (IP) and advanced bronchoscopy. Since first being recognized as a distinct subspecialty by Seijo and Sterman in 2001, IP has experienced tremendous growth (1). Today, IP providers around the world provide minimally invasive management of diseases affecting the lungs, airways, and pleura. Numerous international professional organizations have been born to support providers in this field (2). Rapid development of new equipment and techniques have necessitated that providers continually expand and refresh their knowledge and skill set in order to provide the most up-to-date care for their patients.

This focused series was designed to provide readers with state-of-the-art reviews on several classic topics with recent advances, as well as cutting-edge areas that are still maturing. A select group of experts in the field were asked to contribute on specific topics based on their expertise and prior publication track-record. Topics were selected based on their relevance and perceived usefulness for the diverse readership of *Shanghai Chest*.

Dr. Jasleen Pannu from The Ohio State University contributed a review of transbronchial cryobiopsy. She provides a practical step-by-step guide emphasizing the proper technique, as supported by recent guidelines (3).

The recent introduction of robotic bronchoscopy has prompted some providers to question the future viability of traditional navigational bronchoscopy systems. Dr. Amit “Bobby” Mahajan from Inova Fairfax Hospital provides insight into the key factors supporting each side of the equation. This topic will likely become increasingly relevant as robotic technology is refined and becomes more affordable.

Airway complications following lung transplantation continue to represent a management challenge, even for experienced providers. Dr. Laura Frye from the University of Wisconsin clearly delineates the various tools and techniques employed to handle these situations based on patient-specific factors.

New advances in the management of central airway obstruction are examined by Dr. Kevin Ma from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. George Cheng from the University of California San Diego reveals new stent types and techniques for relief of malignant and benign airway stenosis.

Together, these articles form an excellent resource for all interventional pulmonologists and advanced bronchoscopists. They offer recommendations that are based on data and endorsed by leaders in the field. We look forward to feedback from the readers of *Shanghai Chest* so that we may continue to provide high-quality, relevant publications in the future.

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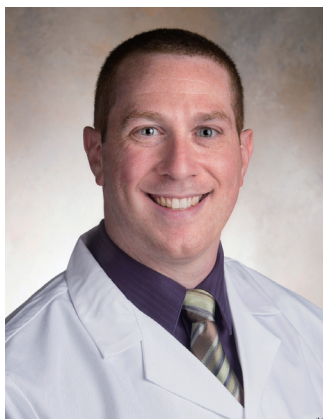
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