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Author financial conflict-of-interest disclosures appear within the authors’ respective articles.

This supplement was supported by educational grants from Sanofi-Aventis (platinum-level grant) and Boehringer Ingelheim, Merck & Co., Inc., and Prompte, LLC (bronze-level grants).
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From the supplement editors

Perioperative medicine is a unique discipline in that the medical care of the surgical patient is not “owned” by any one specialty. Nothing attests to this better than the event on which this supplement is based, the “2nd Annual Cleveland Clinic Perioperative Medicine Summit: Using Evidence to Improve Quality, Safety, and Patient Outcomes,” being held in Cleveland on September 18 and 19, 2006. The Summit’s speakers and attendees range from anesthesiologists to internists and hospitalists, from subspecialists to nurses.

As the nation’s baby boomers age and begin to undergo more surgeries than ever before, our health care system is beginning to feel a burden from the medical care related to this surgical groundswell. It is forecast that the US health care system is likely to face crisis-level demand for perioperative care in the next 20 years.1 For this reason we must prepare health care providers to better deal with the current burden and a possible future crisis.

This year, the Cleveland Clinic Perioperative Medicine Summit is being held in conjunction with the newly formed Society of Perioperative Assessment and Quality Improvement (SPAQI). The society’s goal is to bring together professionals from various disciplines to work together on all facets of optimizing surgical outcomes. We welcome SPAQI members and Summit attendees to Cleveland.

In this special supplement you will find a complete listing of the Summit faculty and program as well as all the abstracts submitted and accepted to the 2006 Research, Innovations, and Clinical Vignette Competition. We have also included 11 peer-reviewed “IMPACT Consults” that provide answers to common clinical questions related to perioperative practice; these are on display as posters during the conference. This supplement is also available online at www.ccjm.org/toc/2006periop.htm.

We look forward to a great meeting.

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