Foreword

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A certain elementary training in statistical method is becoming as necessary for everyone living in this world of today as reading and writing.

—H.G. Wells

Some readers may ask, "After so many cool state-of-the-art issues that have been published in *Clinics in Sports Medicine*, why did you pick such a boring topic for this issue?" As much as I like the Mark Twain quote (which some attribute to Benjamin Disraeli) provided in the preface to this issue, statistics is a necessary discipline—especially in medicine; so sometimes we need to make sure that we know how to interpret the science behind the research, not just show new and interesting procedures.

Over the years, I have struggled to find dynamic and interesting lecturers on statistics and have failed more often than not. Luckily, I eventually chanced upon two who have succeeded, Drs Joe Hart and Steve Thompson. Both Joe and Steve have given this challenging lecture topic at the Miller Review Course, and against all odds (statistically speaking), delivered well-reviewed and well-appreciated lectures. That's why I asked them to team up and provide our readership some elementary training in statistical methods.

Like all issues of *Clinics in Sports Medicine*, this represents a complete and thorough review of the "significant" issues of this topic. It includes statistical and analytical principles, mixed model designs, prevention and interpretation studies, graph interpretation, quality and outcome reporting, and guidelines for interpreting administrative databases, and concludes with a "lessons-learned" discussion from the MOON group. For those who are not familiar with this last topic, suffice it to say that the MOON group, led by Dr Kurt Spindler, was the first "extraterrestrial" named sports medicine group to report multicenter outcome data and continues to do so at virtually every orthopedic sports medicine meeting and in every journal published. It is the model design for

reporting important outcome data. This is a great issue of *Clinics in Sports Medicine*. Thanks to Joe Hart and Steve Thompson for putting together such an excellent treatise on statistics in sports medicine.

Thanks!

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