Preface

The book *Key Leader’s Opinion on Critical Care Medicine* is a member of a series of AME commentary books. This is a great adventure to explore a new style of publication. All authors invited to contribute to the book are key leaders in their specialties or subspecialties. Their insightful comments on a particular issue are worthwhile in that it not only helps to incorporate new evidence into clinical practice but also directs future researches. Most of the comments are made on original articles published in prestigious peer-reviewed journals such as *The Lancet*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *Intensive care medicine* and *Critical Care medicine*. Although not exhaustive, articles published in these journals cover the most important researches and reflect the state-of-the-art understanding on critical care medicine. However, one original research can lead to different interpretations and there will be disparities in subsequent changes of clinical practice. As a result, presenting the result of large clinical researches to clinicians is not the end of the story. Interpretations of the results and how to incorporate the results into clinical practice are also interesting and important. As the motto goes: there are a thousand Hamlets in a thousand people’s eyes. We found that different authors can have different views and points on a research, and all of them are valuable. For junior clinicians, these insightful thoughts help to sharpen their ideas to form the directions of future research.

At the beginning of the year 2015, AME publishing company launched this project and the subject covers all areas of clinical medicine. We found that our book is numbered 003, suggesting other section editors are much more hard-working than us. I’m honored to work with them. The publication style is unique in that these comments are firstly published in AME journals and then they are compiled into a book. Publication in journals ensures the timeliness of the dissemination of these opinions. Usually, an important work can stir great debate in the specialty community. For instance, when several major trials on the effectiveness of early goal directed therapy (EGDT) were published in 2005, many journals published commentary papers immediately. This reflects the requirement of timeliness for commentary. While journal articles ensure timeliness, compiling them into a book means that these views and perspectives are immortal and have far-reaching impact (e.g., they will not disappear as time goes by). It will be exciting if some thoughts shaped in these commentaries will be validated and find its way into daily clinical practice. There is an interesting column in the journal *Intensive Care Medicine*, which is called “my paper 20 years later”. They invited authors to comment on their research published decades ago. Maybe in the future, we can also invite authors to comment on the views that have been made years before, by incorporating new evidence at that time.

Lastly, I would like to thank AME publishing company to give us such a platform to exchange ideas and views. Also, I would like to thank my family. Without their support, my dreams will not come true.

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