Like many good ideas in clinical medicine, trauma-induced coagulopathy was the product of a routine multidisciplinary research meeting. Two research fellows, Eduardo and Hunter, were presenting their experimental plans and remarked that their study backgrounds were based on literature from a variety of disciplines in diverse journals. They proposed compiling a collection of seminal papers from the experts in the field to assist those interested in coagulation research. The idea was further stimulated by frequent questions from our colleagues on the surgical intensive care unit rounds who wanted to understand the basis for our new concepts in coagulation management that were not available in surgical texts. As the process unfolded, it became clear that multiple classic papers were required for each concept. The collection soon became too large for practical distribution, and the next evolutionary step was to extract information from each contribution to generate a reference handbook. We ultimately recognized that the individual components of the coagulation system were simply too complex to relegate to a summary in a handbook. Thus, we agreed the most useful reference would be a text of chapters written by those conducting research in various fields related to coagulation.

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