



Preface
Female Urology



Kevin R. Loughlin, MD
Guest Editor

Up until a few short years ago, female urology was virtually synonymous with female incontinence. However, over the past decade the scope of what female urology encompasses has grown enormously as demonstrated in this issue of *The Urologic Clinics of North America*.

There are many reasons for this expansion of scope. First, the role of women in our society continues to evolve. Women increasingly, hold positions of power and influence in all areas of society including education, business and science. Three of the eight Ivy League universities now have female presidents and numerous corporations have female CEOs and women in other important executive positions. In many medical schools, women comprise more than half of the student enrollment.

Because of the changing role of women in society and medicine, there has been an increased awareness of women's health in general, and female urologic problems in particular. There are clearly some unique aspects to female physiology and pathology that impact on urologic diagnosis and clinical management. This issue of *The Urologic Clinics of North America* reviews the current thinking on the evaluation and treatment of female urinary incontinence, but it goes far

beyond that. The current management of various types of urinary tract infections, urethral disorders, endometriosis and pelvic pain are also reviewed. Other articles review urologic problems encountered during childbirth and pregnancy, as well as childhood bladder dysfunction.

The emerging field of female sexual function is discussed extensively, as well complex surgical reconstruction techniques which include vesicovaginal fistula repair and creation of neobladders after cystectomy.

It is our hope that this issue of *The Urologic Clinics of North America* summarizes for the reader the current thinking on Female Urology. Furthermore, we hope it will stimulate considerable thought and discussion so that this area of medicine will continue to be infused with creative innovation which can only result in better care for our female patients.

Kevin R. Loughlin, MD
Professor of Surgery (Urology)
Harvard Medical School
Brigham and Women's Hospital
45 Francis Street
Boston, MA 02115, USA