

Preface



Miguel Regueiro, MD Arthur M. Barrie III, MD, PhD
Guest Editors

We are honored to serve as the editors for this issue of *Gastroenterology Clinics of North America* titled “Challenges in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.” The authors comprise a distinguished group of physician scientists and clinicians who are leaders in the field of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). In this issue, they share their insights and expertise into how they manage challenging IBD presentations. We believe this issue provides an invaluable consulting reference for all health care providers.

This issue covers a wide range of IBD topics. Drs Remo Panaccione and Shane Delvin report on how to treat IBD patients in this evolving era of biologic agents. Drs David Schwartz and Brad Maltz describe the standard of care for the vexing problem of fistulizing disease. Drs Subra Kugathasan and Cary Sauer highlight the unique aspects of pediatric IBD. Dr Uma Mahadevan explains the management of pregnant IBD patients. Drs Bo Shen and Hao Wu illustrate the biologic and clinical ramifications of an ileal pouch-anal anastomosis. Drs James Lewis and Meena Bewtra report on how we should proceed with IBD therapy given the controversial malignancy risk. Similarly, Drs Edward Loftus and Waqqas Afif detail the infectious risks of various IBD medications. Drs Ashwin Ananthakrishnan and Mazen Issa, along with our colleague, Dr David Binion, share their insight into the *Clostridium difficile* epidemic in IBD patients, and Drs David Rubin and Timothy Zisman describe the exciting developments in novel diagnostic and prognostic tools for IBD. Lastly, we describe our own experiences with postoperative management of IBD, including the use of tumor necrosis factor alpha inhibitors.

We are confident that readers of this issue will significantly benefit from the authors’ contributions. We are extremely appreciative of the authors’ hard work and sacrifice of time. We

truly enjoyed working with all of them and commend them on their efforts. We are also very thankful for the guidance and assistance of Kerry Holland, senior editor, and her staff.

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