

## Foreword



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*Consulting Editor*

The synergy between American and Japanese gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopists in the modern era has been one of the great success stories in international medical cooperation. The fact that almost all the endoscopes used for GI endoscopy in the United States are made by Japanese companies has had no small role in forging this remarkable bond. But an even greater attraction has been the mutual appreciation of the contribution each country brings to this cooperative effort. Nowhere is this more evident than in the field of GI cancer, with dramatic progress in the endoscopic detection of premalignant tissue and of early GI cancers, which can be cured with new endoscopic therapies.

A perfect expression of American and Japanese cooperation in GI endoscopy was a joint symposium, January 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, in San Diego, California, titled “GI Cancer and the Endoscopist: A Brave New World of Imaging and Treatment.” The symposium was jointly sponsored by the American Gastroenterological Association Institute and the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology. I was extremely pleased that the Directors, C. Richard Boland, P. Jay Pasricha, and Kentaro Sugano agreed that the conference should be the basis for this issue of the *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Clinics of North America*, and further agreed to be the Guest Editors.

This is a great issue of the *Clinics* that shows off the synergistic power of the American-Japanese relationship in GI endoscopy and highlights the

progress of endoscopic imaging and new therapies for GI cancer. What can be read between the lines is the intensity of new insights being forged in this East-meets-West fusion, and the strong bonds of professional respect and personal friendship that will guarantee future advances.

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