

# Preface

More than half of the first volume of *Chassin's Operative Strategy in General Surgery*, introduced in 1980, was devoted to surgery of the small and large intestine and anorectum. This unusually rich and detailed coverage was maintained and even expanded in subsequent editions. The “big” Chassin's has become an invaluable resource for the surgical community.

In recent years, colorectal surgery has become a specialty unto itself, practiced by both colorectal and general surgeons. This volume, *Chassin's Operative Strategy in Colon and Rectal Surgery*, seek to provide the gold standard content of the large volume with the focus and specificity needed by colorectal surgeons. Practiced clinicians, fellows, and residents will all find valuable clinical guidance in these chapters.

Colorectal surgery is a rapidly-evolving surgical field. Since the last edition of the full volume of Chassin's, laparoscopic colon surgery has become the new standard of care for many patients. Thus, we have added four new, previously unpublished chapters to this new volume:

- laparoscopic right hemicolectomy
- laparoscopic left hemicolectomy
- laparoscopic abdominoperineal resection and total proctocolectomy with end ileostomy
- laparoscopic stoma construction and closure

Written by Steven D. Wexner, these new chapters provide the reader with the latest techniques in colorectal surgery. In addition to the clear, comprehensive text, these new chapters are enhanced by 52 lavish new illustrations by Caspar Henselmann, the skilled artist whose work has illuminated every edition of this text.

It is our hope that the reader will find *Chassin's Operative Strategy in Colon and Rectal Surgery* a useful distillation of the best of the “old” and the “new” strategies and techniques in colorectal surgery.

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