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## Preface

The challenge for the authors of a medical/scientific monograph is to communicate both their passionate interest in and their dedication to the subject matter, whether a disease, a new technique, an original therapeutic approach, or the most recent trends in clinical and experimental research. Of equal importance is to consider the scope of the audience, which may include students, interns, and residents but also highly experienced professionals.

We have kept these goals in mind in our exploration of the difficult subject of digestive endoscopy, specifically, of the terminal ileum, and the most important issues related to the use of this technique in various disease settings. Each chapter consists of a thorough discussion of a particular topic, which is illustrated by a large number of detailed images.

In the field of modern gastroenterology, digestive endoscopy continues to be the focus of enormous interest because of the many achievements over the last several decades: from the introduction of capsule endoscopy to the development of enteroscopy. These imaging capabilities have greatly expanded our knowledge of intestinal diseases while opening up new frontiers in their more accurate treatment.

Exploration of the terminal ileum during total colonoscopy has gained much greater acceptance within the profession based on the diagnostic accuracy of terminal ileoscopy with respect to ileocecal pathologies, including neoplasias of the cecal region. In addition, terminal ileoscopy documents the completeness of colonoscopy and points the way to the optimal procedure for further study of the intestine. This capability is such that we provocatively refer to ileoscopy as the fast track to the diagnosis of gut diseases.

The multidisciplinary approach taken by the authors of this volume to the accurate study of the ileocecum is highlighted by the contributions of experts in radiology and surgery, providing a closer look at several intestinal diseases. Particular emphasis has been placed on endoscopic imaging of the different disease stages and on analyzing the results obtained with the new techniques in terms of their ability to enhance diagnostic accuracy.

We would like to thank all the authors who actively participated in realizing this book, for their clinical efforts and scientific contributions. To our readers: we hope that we have been able to contribute to your professional development and to have inspired in you the same passionate interest that has resulted in this book.

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