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## Preface

It is not very often that a new disease entity is discovered. While autoimmune pancreatitis was christened in 1995, it is only in the last few years that the terms type 2 autoimmune pancreatitis and IgG4-related disease have been coined to describe new disease entities. So it is with great pleasure that we present this book titled IgG4-related disease (IgG4-RD). Our goal is to provide a timely overview of this disease entity with particular emphasis on its most well-described manifestations, namely, autoimmune pancreatitis (AIP) and IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis (IgG4-SC).

As gastroenterologists, this effort grew out of our interest in AIP and IgG4-SC. As worldwide experience has grown, AIP and IgG4-SC are now recognized as manifestations of a multiorgan disease process termed IgG4-related disease (IgG4-RD). While there is much overlap in terms of the clinical, serological, histological, and imaging features among the various organs involved, there are also key differences. Clearer understandings of the overlapping and disparate features have substantially aided patient care and are reviewed in detail throughout this book.

Initial efforts around the world occurred in isolation producing often conflicting evaluation and management strategies, leading to confusion and uncertainty among physicians. Recent multinational collaborative efforts have enhanced our understanding of the pathogenesis as well as clinical, laboratory, and imaging findings associated with IgG4-RD. This combined effort has led to the adoption of a broadly accepted nomenclature and helped standardize the diagnostic and therapeutic approach. However, in this book we do elaborate on key differences that remain throughout the world, thereby allowing clinicians and researchers to tailor their practice and studies accordingly. This book offers a manageable understanding of key aspects of the disease while providing in-depth information that should well serve those seeking a deeper understanding of this unique disorder.

We would like to acknowledge the renowned team of experts that we feel fortunate to have worked with, and we appreciate their hard work and devotion to this project. We have found this journey of discovery to be rewarding and hope you will as well.

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