

Preface

This book was designed for those readers specializing in GI as in clerkships, electives, residencies, and beyond. The book provides a focused review of gastrointestinal physiological principles presented in easy-to-read language. Mastery of the material is tested in multiple ways in real time. Key reasons for reading this book include:

- Practical guide to GI physiology.
- Promotes hands on learning.
- Integrated systems approach for the eight subareas of GI system.
- Easy-to-read format.
- USMLE style questions interspersed throughout chapters prepare readers for in-service, board, and recertification exams.
- Cases formatted as the reader will see them on the wards or clinics.
- Normal range of lab values provided within the body of the case.
- Key concepts highlighted throughout the text in boxes and summarized in one place.
- Unique quick reference tables—“Diseases Affecting the GI tract” and “Neoplasms of the GI tract”—excellent test prep aids.
- Unique Connecting-the-Dots segments present an illustrative case to reinforce learning in real time.

Allied health, nursing professionals, and trainees who treat patients with gastrointestinal problems will also find this book useful. For gastroenterology fellows and others involved in advanced training in gastrointestinal diseases, this book may serve as a primer upon which they can build their knowledge as they investigate the more intricate areas of the discipline.

Our book utilizes newer adult learning strategies in medical education. We make connections to a student's life whether at work or in the classroom by presenting relevant cases which are critical in providing a forum in which the student can apply acquired knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Practice is the best way for students to truly gain mastery of a subject or concept.

Despite the use of clinical vignettes and scenarios, this is a physiology book and not a pathophysiology book. We do not delve into certain diseases, tests, or treatments, unless by doing so we further the understanding of gastrointestinal physiology. There are a number of outstanding formal texts that detail nonclinical mechanisms. This book, however, was written for present and future practitioners caring for today's patients and who need to build upon a solid clinical foundation.

In summary, this book is ideal for the students/practitioners of clinical GI physiology who need to review key concepts in order to understand what is going on with their patients and to ace USMLE or other board exams.

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A Clinical Approach

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