Preface

Urology

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Guest Editor

Why a Medical Clinics of North America issue devoted specifically to urology? I asked myself this question when invited to edit this issue. On review of the disorders managed by urologists, it became apparent that many applied to the general practice of medicine. Some are potentially life threatening, such as malignancies of the kidney, bladder, or prostate, and others tend to have significant impact on quality of life, such as interstitial cystitis, acute and chronic prostatitis, or erectile dysfunction. All are important to patients and all deserve appropriate evaluation, assessment, and treatment.

The current issue addresses these and other disorders that are common to urologic practice but also are common to all physicians practicing medicine. Some can be evaluated and treated by the primary care physician, but others require referral to a urologic specialist. The authors contributing to the issue tried to provide this information so that appropriate treatment can be provided by the primary care physician, but urologic expertise can be called on when needed. I believe they have met their goal.

The authors of all articles are well-recognized experts in their particular field and all made an effort to provide a comprehensive review of their area of interest. Their efforts are greatly appreciated. The efforts of the editor,
Ms. Heather Cullen, are greatly appreciated as well for helping to put this all together.

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