This issue of Medical Clinics of North America helps mark the recognition that gender based biology has begun to receive. Until only recently, medicine (with the exception of reproduction) viewed males and females as more similar than different, with data derived from males extrapolated to women. The continuous efforts of the women’s movement over the decades and the view that women are unique, as well as the expansion of research about women, unearthed gender differences in a variety of areas. Differences in cardiovascular disease expression, osteoporosis, mental health, violence and assaults, hormonal changes with age, pharmacokinetics, and many other aspects were found.

This issue devotes itself to the alterations and impact of disorders and diseases that affect men as they age. It is not a compendium but a beginning because some of these conditions are just receiving recognition and others remain undiscovered. Many of the issues covered, such as cardiovascular disease and benign prostatic hyperplasia and prostate cancer, are certainly classical conditions associated with aging men; however, other areas may not be quite on the front burner, in terms of present-day thought processes, for aging males and their providers. Disorders such as the ADAM syndrome (androgen deficiency in aging men) and osteoporosis are not yet considered common issues. The impact of socioeconomic strata on function and frailty and the areas of depression and substance abuse are more commonly regarded as aging women’s issues, but this is not the case. Notable aspects of disease prevention and promotion are more specific to men, who may not be receiving care, and we must find more innovative and creative methods of promoting healthcare to men who may be less likely to access health care.

As we continue to recognize the growing scope of gender-based issues as both barriers and opportunities, and as our knowledge continues to proliferate, the need for health care providers to remain open and unbiased towards disease recognition, assessment, integration of information, and implementation of therapy becomes ever more important. Older men’s health and the issues sur-
rounding it will continue to expand, evolve, and progress, and hopefully, this issue will spur continued questions and investigations about the health and well being of men as they age.

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