We are pleased to have had the opportunity to edit this Medical Clinics issue on women's health. During the past decade, there has been an increasing appreciation that the medical care of women can be unique. Although the initial focus of many clinicians and researchers revolved around obstetrical and gynecologic issues, this issue offers a broader perspective on women’s health.

Information is offered on a wide variety of medical issues. We attempt to synthesize knowledge from various medical disciplines and focus on topics that are important for the internist who cares for women. Articles address primary care issues, gender-specific information about important illnesses, and medical concerns that only or primarily affect women. There is also information on age-specific changes that occur. This is a definite attempt to review diseases and medical conditions that affect women throughout their lives.

This issue can serve as a basic resource for those involved in the care of women and a reference guide for individuals who have specific interests. The authors have done an exemplary job in their attempt to address the myriad of factors that affect women’s health in a thoughtful and clinically useful way. There is enough detail in the information to serve as guidelines for the primary care of medical conditions that affect women, as well as information that is important for the referring internist when addressing subspecialty issues.

We hope that this Medical Clinics on women’s health is helpful to the internist in providing medical care for women and that it supports the broader perspective that has developed about women's health.

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