Preface

We are honored to serve as the editors for this issue of Medical Clinics of North America titled “Challenges in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.” The authors comprise a distinguished group of physician scientists and clinicians who are leaders in the field of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). In this issue, they share their insights and expertise into how they manage challenging IBD presentations. We believe this issue provides an invaluable consulting reference for all health care providers.

This issue covers a wide range of IBD topics. Drs. Remo Panaccione and Shane Devlin report on how to treat IBD patients in this evolving era of biologic agents. Drs. David Schwartz and Brad Maltz describe the standard of care for the vexing problem of fistulizing disease. Drs. Subra Kugathasan and Cary Sauer highlight the unique aspects of pediatric IBD. Dr. Uma Mahadevan explains the management of pregnant IBD patients. Drs. Bo Shen and Hao Wu illustrate the biologic and clinical ramifications of an ileal pouch-anal anastomosis. Drs. James Lewis and Meena Bewtra report on how we should proceed with IBD therapy given the controversial malignancy risk. Similarly, Drs. Edward Loftus and Waqqas Afif detail the infectious risks of various IBD medications. Drs. Ashwin Ananthakrishnan and Mazen Issa, along with our colleague, Dr. David Binion, share their insight into the Clostridium difficile epidemic in IBD patients, and Drs. David Rubin and Timothy Zisman describe the exciting developments in novel diagnostic and prognostic tools for IBD. Lastly, we describe our own experiences with postoperative management of IBD, including the use of tumor necrosis factor alpha inhibitors.

We are confident that readers of this issue will significantly benefit from the authors’ contributions. We are extremely appreciative of the authors’ hard work and sacrifice of
time. We truly enjoyed working with all of them and commend them on their efforts. We are also very thankful for the guidance and assistance of Kerry Holland, senior editor, and her staff.

Miguel Regueiro, MD
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine UPMC-PUH
Mezzanine Level, C-Wing
200 Lothrop Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA

Arthur M. Barrie III, MD, PhD
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Pittsburgh, PA, USA

E-mail addresses:
mdr7@pitt.edu (M. Regueiro)
amb145@pitt.edu (A.M. Barrie)