As transplant medicine has evolved, so has the role of the generalist in the ongoing care of the patients receiving these vital organs. Liver and kidney transplantation, once considered a highly specialized area of surgery, has become quite common. The patient care it demands has resulted from not only the care related to the organ itself but also the types and degree of immunosuppression, as well as the inherent potential for complications that surround it. As the number of patients receiving cadaveric and living donor–related liver and kidney transplants has increased—and their life expectancy has lengthened—the need to involve the primary care physician in their care has become essential.

In this issue of the *Medical Clinics of North America*, Drs Sass and Doyle have assembled an exceptional panel of experts to address the common, yet complex, questions that present to the internal medicine physician whose patients undergo transplantation of these organs. The editors begin by providing the historical perspective to liver and kidney transplantation. The articles to follow address almost every aspect of the subsequent care of these patients (and donors), from determination of the time to transplant, discussion of immunosuppression and the potential short- and long-term complications, to the impact on quality of life and the potential for pregnancy in the transplanted patient.

If not now, then in the very near future, all of our practices will be providing longitudinal care to patients who have undergone liver and/or kidney transplantation. The articles in this issue present a breadth and depth of knowledge that will allow
the internist or family practitioner to participate in the comprehensive, team-based care that is required in this unique and growing field of medicine.

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