Preface

Each organism’s environment, for the most part, consists of other organisms.

– Kevin Kelly

Enteric infections are the second most common cause of death in the world, among all ages, preceded only by cardiovascular disease. The amount of anatomic pathology training that most of us receive pertaining to infectious disease pathology is at odds with these statistics. Most infectious disease pathology training is provided in the microbiology laboratory and is divorced from the examination of tissue sections. There are many situations, however, in which the histologic findings as well as microbiological data are critical to both the diagnosis and the management of an infectious disease.

This book is designed to serve as a practical reference for the pathologic diagnosis of infectious diseases of the gastrointestinal tract. In addition to discussing the morphologic features of the various infections, I have tried to emphasize how infectious diseases mimic other entities that we frequently encounter in gastrointestinal pathology, such as chronic idiopathic inflammatory bowel disease and ischemic enterocolitis. Much of the book is obviously devoted to illustrations, and the text is not intended as an exhaustive review but rather to provide pertinent clinical, diagnostic, and epidemiologic information that will be valuable to the practicing pathologist.

I have been fortunate in my career to train and work with many pathologists who loved infectious diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, and several of them have contributed large numbers of photographs to my collection over the years. It is my hope that the reader will benefit, as I have, from these wonderful materials that have been entrusted to me.

Little Rock, Arkansas

Laura Webb Lamps
Surgical Pathology of the Gastrointestinal System: Bacterial, Fungal, Viral, and Parasitic Infections
Lamps, L.W.
2010, XIV, 236 p. 593 illus. in color., Hardcover