Preface

Drs. David Beck and Steven Wexner (Senior Editors) as well as the other members of the editorial board, Drs. Patricia Roberts, Theodore Saclarides, Michael Stamos, and Anthony Senagore, are to be congratulated on their successful completion of the second edition of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) Textbook. The table of contents has been changed to reflect recent changes in the Core Curriculum for training Residents in colon and rectal surgery and format changes have been made to improve the presentation of the material. At least one third of the material has been completely renewed to reflect advances in the science of our specialty.

The ASCRS Textbook has rapidly become a major resource for training, read by almost all trainees interested in our specialty. The purpose of the text was originally to provide a standardized reference for evidence-based recommendations, referenced to ASCRS practice parameter guidelines were available. The first edition has been downloaded onto the Web-based Colon and Rectal Education System as the reference for all the educational efforts of the ASCRS Continuing Medical Education Committee. Our society, as owners and editors of the ASCRS Textbook, can be proud to be one of the few national organizations with its own comprehensive textbook from which certification and recertification materials can be drawn. Using an entire society as the pool of authors, allows the ASCRS Textbook, as much as possible, to avoid personal bias in the materials presented.

The ASCRS Manual for Residents in training at all levels has also been released this past year. The current Editorial Board has condensed the material from each chapter of the first Edition of the ASCRS Textbook to provide students and residents rapid access to a succinct, distilled version of the ASCRS Textbook. The production of these two educational resources adds evidence that the ASCRS is “the” authority on colorectal disease and has within its membership individuals who can claim the status of “expert.” Their contribution has made the ASCRS Textbook a success and should be considered a major selfless contribution to our society and specialty.

As time passes, our specialty and the body of knowledge surrounding it certainly change. The existence of this ASCRS Textbook and the mechanism which perpetuates it guarantees that we always have the most up-to-date information available to our members and trainees. The proceeds from the sale of the ASCRS Textbook also flow into the Education Foundation of the ASCRS to bring independence from outside sponsorship to our national meeting. The Executive Council of the ASCRS is fully supportive of this effort by the Editorial Board of the ASCRS Textbook and gratefully recognizes their contribution and that of the group of experts who provide new and updated chapters for each successive edition.
Please remember the sacrifice of time and effort that made this publication possible. Strive to add to the knowledge which one day changes our practice and our specialty. Use this ASCRS Textbook to show the world that the ASCRS is THE authority on colorectal disease as we improve patient care.

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