When we first met to consider a proposal to put together a book on urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse, the obvious question was “why another book.” The answer was not easy but a need was perceived based on the tremendous changes in our understanding and the way we practice today compared to even 5 years ago, let alone when we were in training. The radical changes were initiated by the infusion of new pharmaceutical agents in bladder-driven incontinence and by the more recent device-driven approaches to the urethral incontinence in female and male population. The emerging field of kits for the pelvic organ prolapse is further fueling the interest. Journal articles reflect individual reports, reviews, and meta-analysis data; however, to a reader a comprehensive book offers a resource for reference, an aid to understanding for new practitioners entering the field, or an expansion of the horizons and/or a substantiation of their reasons for practice in the field for the more experienced practitioners. We hope that this effort of many international stars will fulfill these needs.

We have made a great effort to put together authors who are progressive in their thoughts and are willing to reflect the changes from established patterns. This in no way minimizes the efforts of others in the past, for it is upon their shoulders that we climb in order to see farther.

There is one individual who toiled to make this effort possible. Kaytan Amrute was the glue that binds this book, so to this young individual, who is just beginning his journey in the field of urogynecology, the four of us express our deep gratitude.

Individually, we would like to thank our families who give up so much of their time to allow us to put in this effort. We list their names jointly, as the four of us remain bound together by this book.

Gopal Badlani, MD
G. Willy Davila, MD
Martin C. Michel, MD, MAE
Jean J.M.C.H. de la Rosette, MD, PhD