Continence
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Current Concepts and Treatment Strategies

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Urinary incontinence and pelvic prolapse have affected the quality of many lives over the years. Only recently, however, has increased attention to these areas led to a better understanding of the epidemiology, pathophysiology, and newer approaches to treatment, both from the pharmacological and device standpoint. This text is a step forward in bringing these new innovations together in a comprehensive and well-organized manner. The editors have chosen an international group of authors who are highly regarded in their fields, and these authors have in turn provided details in an easy to read format. The editors themselves have provided a diversity of expertise from the fields of urology, urogynecology, pharmacology, and minimally invasive approaches. This combination is unique. The latest concepts in epidemiology, anatomy, and pathophysiology are presented in the first two parts on the book. Stress incontinence is totally reviewed from the standpoint of all types of conservative, minimally invasive, and not so minimally invasive therapies. Urinary urgency incontinence likewise is reviewed from the same standpoints, including a separate section on contemporary views regarding the use of intradetrusor or suburothelial botulinum toxin injections. The section on pelvic organ prolapse includes a thorough discussion of biomaterials, as well as complete discussions of conservative and surgical management of the various forms of prolapse. Male urinary incontinence is included as a separate part of the book, and there are two parts devoted to “special situations and socioeconomic considerations.” The special situations include fistulas, postradiation incontinence, recurrent incontinence, voiding dysfunction after surgery, and the multioperated patient with recurrent incontinence and/or prolapse; the socioeconomic issues include the economic impacts of urinary incontinence and prolapse and a well-thought out contribution on community awareness and education. All in all, this is a complete package, unique in the field, and I recommend it to any audience interested in the topic.

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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.

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This book is dedicated to our family members who give up so much!

GB: Charu, Pooja and Chirag
WD: Carolyn, Claudia, Daniel and Will
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JD: Pilar

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