

# Preface

In a previous publication, the authors attempted to cover not only topical issues but also difficult problems that might confront recently appointed trainees in the decisions they make that confront these individuals in their future practices.

Since that time, much of the thrust of coloproctology and government directives have centred around various aspects of colorectal cancer. The editors are thus of the opinion that they must not shy away from political incentive and have dedicated just over half of the present book to the diagnosis, presentation, and management of colorectal carcinoma.

By contrast, the editors have also tried to draw attention to the fact that many patients with benign disorders of the colorectum have symptoms which are incompatible with a constructive and useful quality of life. Crohn's disease is paramount in this respect and continues to provide challenges in both medical and surgical management. Moreover, coloproctologists continue to be vexed by the problems presented by the diagnosis and treatment of functional bowel disorders, and it is hoped that the chapters in this book will help to demystify the investigation and treatment of incontinence and constipation.

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