Medical Therapy of Ulcerative Colitis
Since the landmark description of ulcerative colitis by Dr. Samuel Wilks and Dr. Walter Moxon in 1859, much has been learned about the etiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of these two idiopathic inflammatory bowel disorders. Ulcerative colitis occurs at any age, spares no socio-economic class, and has the potential to significantly impair patient’s quality of life. Substantial progress has been made in the past decade related to ulcerative colitis; however, improvements and expansion of the medical armamentarium used to treat patients with ulcerative colitis have had the greatest impact on patients’ lives.

This textbook entitled “Medical Therapy of Ulcerative Colitis” represents the first edition. The authors who were assimilated to contribute to this textbook are the key opinion leaders who are regionally, nationally, and internationally recognized as authorities in inflammatory bowel disease. These authors have made major contributions to the literature that has focused on medical therapy of inflammatory bowel specifically ulcerative colitis. In this book, the authors discuss the current medical therapies and review the clinical trial data that established the foundation for their use. The individual chapters in this book not only review the current medical therapy in use for treatment of patients with Ulcerative Colitis but they also review the basic pathophysiologic principles supporting the use of these and future therapeutics. The utility of mesalamine derivatives, conventional and novel corticosteroids, immunomodulators, AntiTNF therapy, and small adhesion molecules are reviewed in detail. Additionally, novel therapeutics that have potential impact and significance to the practicing physician are highlighted.

I am grateful to my contributors for providing superb, detailed, critical chapters amid their already busy schedules. I am most appreciative and extend thanks to all my colleagues, patients, and those who have supported research in the field, who have helped me uncover and extend the boundaries of my knowledge in inflammatory bowel disease. Lastly, I am most appreciative of my wife Nancy and my children Danielle and Julie for allowing me to spend countless hours doing what I thoroughly enjoy: patient care, research, and education. I feel it is a privilege to do what I do and I thank all for facilitating my enjoyment.

Philadelphia, PA, USA                          Gary R. Lichtenstein, MD, FACP, FACG, AGAF
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