Hepatology has progressed enormously as a specialty in the past two decades. It has evolved from a purely clinical specialty to a field where multiple interventional procedures take a lead role in the management of patients. The incorporation of new therapeutic interventions for patients with liver disease as well as for liver transplant recipients has exponentially grown and subspecialty fields have emerged within the liver disease arena. Interventional procedures play a critical role in the management of patients with hepatobiliary diseases because they offer diagnostic and definite treatment options for an array of conditions. Interventions include those that directly measure portal pressure, perform transjugular liver biopsy, and place transjugular intrahepatic portsosystemic shunts as therapy for complications of portal hypertension. Another commonly performed intervention is digestive and hepatobiliary endoscopy, which offers not only diagnostic but also therapeutic choices in various areas such as portal hypertension and hepatobiliary disease. Endoscopy plays a fundamental role in the management of patients with almost all types of liver disease. In addition, both hepatology and endoscopy have become very specialized and thus a thorough knowledge of the indications, findings, therapeutic possibilities, and complications that arise from endoscopic interventions is a must for the practicing clinician. The rising incidence of liver cancer has also placed radiofrequency ablation and chemoembolization of liver lesions at the forefront of interventional therapies for hepatocellular carcinoma. Finally, the management of acute liver failure has certainly evolved with new therapeutic options, such as liver assist devices, that can help manage these patients in the intensive care unit. It is for this reason that we consider this issue of Clinics in Liver Disease devoted to “Interventional Procedures in Hepatobiliary Diseases” a timely and unique one. In this issue, we have invited an outstanding group of experts in the above-mentioned fields who share their vast experience and critically appraise important developments in interventional procedures of patients with hepatobiliary diseases.
We sincerely hope that this issue has succeeded in summarizing the current status of interventional procedures in the management of hepatobiliary diseases. We express our gratitude to all the authors for their exceptional contributions. Finally, we thank Dr Norman Gitlin for inviting us as guest editors, as well as Casey Jackson and Kerry Holland, for their editorial support and assistance.

Andrés Cárdenas, MD, MMSc, AGAF
Institut de Malalties Digestives i Metaboliques
University of Barcelona
Hospital Clinic–Villarroel 170, Esc 3-2
08036 Barcelona, Spain

Paul J. Thuluvath, MD, FRCP
The Institute for Digestive Health & Liver Disease
Mercy Medical Center
301 St Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202, USA

E-mail addresses:
acardena@clinic.ub.es, acv69@hotmail.com (A. Cárdenas)
thuluvath@gmail.com (P.J. Thuluvath)