Preface

Primary Biliary Cholangitis: A New Era

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Editors

Primary biliary cholangitis (PBC), first described almost 70 years ago, has entered the spotlight of hepatology attention. With widespread availability of effective treatments for viral hepatitis, attention has turned to the cholestatic liver diseases, which are now active areas of research and discovery. Signs of progress are evident, from the change in name of the disease to the first new medication approved for PBC in 20 years.

This issue of Clinics in Liver Disease provides the reader with detailed updates covering a broad range of topics in PBC. Two articles in this issue discuss the epidemiology, genetics, and epigenetics of the disease, highlighting many new discoveries that have occurred in the past decade. Another article focuses on new thoughts on the role of the bicarbonate umbrella in the pathogenesis of PBC and introduces potential new targets for therapy. This is the perfect segue into the following two articles devoted to treatment, including bile acid and non–bile acid therapies as well as an in-depth discussion of drugs in development. Symptom management has always been an important aspect of PBC; one article is devoted to understanding and managing pruritus and the other article is devoted to the chronic complications of cholestasis. The reader will learn to apply principles of precision medicine directly in the management of PBC and understand the proper use of scoring systems and liver histology in this setting. The challenging variant diseases, AMA-negative PBC and PBC-autoimmune hepatitis overlap syndrome, are reviewed in detail. The issue ends with an article on liver transplantation, still the only cure for PBC.

Over the past decade, tremendous advances have been made in the understanding of PBC leading to the advent of new and targeted therapies. Although rare, the absence of a cure and the frequent need for liver transplantation make PBC an important disease for study. The articles in this state-of-the-art issue expertly elucidate recent developments. We thank all the authors not only for their excellent contributions but also for their commitment to advancing our understanding of this disease.
to this issue but also for their commitment toward further understanding and (some-
day) curing this challenging disease.

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