Preface

Infection prevention and control has grown and changed significantly since it first became nationally recognized in the early 1970s. Initially, infection control was focused on occupational health and infection surveillance in the hospital. More recently, there has been a growing emphasis on prevention and process in the hospital and also in a multitude of other health care settings. Over the past few years there has been an increased recognition of the quality and cost implications associated with health care–associated infections. Now more than ever infection prevention has been thrust into the spotlight with regards to patient safety, financial accountability, and regulatory readiness. While individual textbooks, articles, and other resources are available to address questions and issues pertaining to infection prevention and control, this issue of *Infectious Disease Clinics of North America* serves as an inclusive, relatively concise and focused primer on infection control.

A multitude of topics are reviewed, including building an infection control program, the economics of an infection control and prevention program, hand hygiene, sterilization and disinfection, device-related infections, multi-drug-resistant bacteria, tuberculosis, influenza and other viral illnesses, fungal infections, antimicrobial stewardship, informatics in infection control, and infection control and prevention in outpatient and long-term care settings.

This issue is intended to serve as a useful reference and primer for infection prevention and control. I want to thank the authors who have contributed valuable time and effort to this issue. We hope that you will enjoy it and find it to be a wonderful resource for helping to build and sustain an Infection Prevention and Control program.

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