I am honored to be asked to contribute the Foreword to Dr. Gary Siskin’s book, *Women’s Health and Interventional Radiology*. It is timely that a book focused on women’s health has been written. Advances in women’s health and the fact that women are much more likely to investigate health alternatives for themselves and their families serve as an impetus for this text.

Dr. Siskin has recruited some of the leaders of interventional radiology and their counterparts in medicine and surgery to produce a text covering the spectrum of disorders primarily affecting women, including uterine fibroids, infertility, pelvic pain, osteoporosis, and varicose veins. Each section is introduced by a clinical review of the condition and ended by short chapters discussing the interventional and surgical or medical perspectives.

Image-guided therapies for uterine myomata, infertility, pelvic pain, osteoporosis, and varicose veins have been developed largely over the past 10 years, an amazing accomplishment that reflects the vibrancy and innovation within our specialty.

It is surprising that we have not seen more self-standing outpatient practices developed for women’s health issues by interventional radiologists. Many of Dr. Siskin’s contributors are quick to emphasize the importance of interventional radiologists developing their practices and offices. Hopefully, primary care physicians who read this book will realize they can directly refer to interventional radiologists. Practice development is an essential part of having a successful career as an interventional radiologist and “branding our specialty” is a priority of the leaders within our specialty. As the readers delve into each section, I believe they will be left with the same thought that I experienced after reading this text: why not develop more practices along these lines?

Congratulations to Dr. Siskin and his colleagues. It is quite a feat for Dr. Siskin to conceive of such a book and to contribute to 7 of 28 chapters. I am hopeful that primary care practitioners and internists will also find this book useful, as it contains much new information concerning women’s health and the value of interventional radiology.

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One of the most interesting things about the field of interventional radiology is the ability to be involved in the care of so many different types of patients with a variety of medical conditions. The primary goal of this textbook is to focus on women’s health and the role of interventional radiology within this area of medicine. Some of the included conditions are unique to women, while others are more common in women than they are in men. What ties them together is that these conditions, and the procedures performed to treat these conditions, often form the core of contemporary interventional radiology practice. The increased involvement of interventional radiology in the area of women’s health has rejuvenated the entire field and has allowed many physicians to grow their practices at a time of increased competition. More importantly, the focus on women’s health has changed interventional radiologists from providers of procedural care into providers of medical care.

It is my hope that interventional radiologists may find this text to be a single resource covering much of what they do on a daily basis in this particular area of their practice. The text itself has been designed as a clinical and procedural resource with comprehensive reviews of the major clinical entities treated within this patient population by interventional radiologists including uterine fibroids, pelvic pain, infertility, osteoporosis, and varicose veins, among others. These features, and the perspectives of physicians in several medical specialties regarding the role of interventional radiology in women’s health, may also prove helpful for residents and fellows who are planning careers in interventional radiology. Finally, this text can serve as a resource for gynecologists, primary care physicians, and other providers who refer their patients to interventional radiologists for care and may wish to better understand these procedures.

There is enormous opportunity for interventional radiology in the area of women’s health. This book and the procedures described within it represent only the beginning. As experience grows with local tumor therapy in the liver and lungs, it is easy to envision the role of interventional radiology increasing in the care of patients with primary breast cancer and metastatic disease to the liver and lungs from breast, ovarian, and other malignancies occurring uniquely or more commonly in women. Similarly, with a growing role in the treatment of varicose veins, it becomes easy to envision the role of interventional radiology increasing in the delivery of cosmetic procedures. Finally, many interventional radiologists remain quite active in the care of patients with vascular disease, and it is well known that there are significant gender-based differences in the manifestations of this disease and the response to treatment. With the continuing national and international focus on women’s health, new advances and new opportunities are likely to come in the future. The topics described in this textbook are likely to provide the foundation for the involvement of interventional radiology in areas of which we are not yet aware.

As the editor of this project, I would like to thank those physicians within and outside the field of interventional Radiology for their time and effort in making significant contributions to this book. I also appreciate the support of Timothy Hiscock and Dominik Pucek at Thieme, both of whom gave me the freedom to design a book that would uniquely address the physicians interested in the role of interventional radiology in women’s health.