

# PREFACE

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Cardiac transplantation has evolved dramatically since its first human application in 1967. Since that time, as the chapters of this text collectively attest, significant progress in the areas of immunosuppression and surgical techniques have impacted substantially on posttransplant outcomes, so much so that transplantation is now considered to be the standard therapy for end-stage heart disease.

Cardiac transplantation at Columbia–Presbyterian began in 1977. Since that time, the program has grown extensively and, as of January 2004, completed its 1542nd transplant.

Faced with considerable advances in the field that have challenged our program and allowed its maturity, we decided to publish *Cardiac Transplantation: The Columbia University Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian Hospital Manual* as a compendium for the transplant clinician.

As a testament to the rapidity with which the field of transplantation progresses, many of the “cutting-edge” chapters included in this book may be partially outdated already. However, the majority of the information contained herein reflects the day-to-day practice of clinicians at Columbia–Presbyterian. It is with regret that we were not able to include chapters on topics in some ways the most critical to any transplant program: social work, psychiatry, physical therapy, and physiatry, to name a few. We hope that these and other subspecialties will be further elucidated in a future edition.

As mechanical assist devices become more refined, and progress in transplantation immunology renders immunologic tolerance a real possibility, the field of cardiac transplantation is sure to evolve even further. We hope that *Cardiac Transplantation: The Columbia University Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian Hospital Manual* will aid clinicians in caring for transplant patients preoperatively, perioperatively, and late postoperatively by adding to their knowledge the cumulative experience of the Columbia–Presbyterian heart transplant program.

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