



## Surgical endoscopy: essential skills in gastrointestinal surgery

The impact of flexible endoscopy in the management of gastrointestinal disease has grown from a merely diagnostic role to one of great therapeutic potential, supplanting many of the previously utilized surgical procedures. Surgeons have had an integral role in the development and advancement of these many techniques, and it has become imperative that surgeons take an active role in training and utilizing these tools. This focused issue in *Annals of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgery* highlights the many primary and secondary flexible endoscopic procedures that surgeons must be aware of and adept at their performance. We would like to thank the many authors for their excellent contributions to this update, as well as the editors of this journal for their support and interest in this very important topic. We believe that the readers will find great interest in this journal issue, and hopefully will find it a valuable and educational tool.

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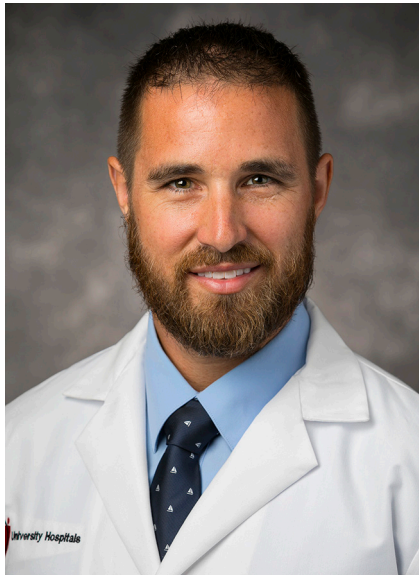
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