Preface

Eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) was first recognized as a distinct entity in 1993. In 2013, we mark the 20th anniversary of EoE discovery. Whether a 20-year period can be considered a long time very much depends on one's perspective. For EoE patients suffering from swallowing difficulties and pain, 20 years is certainly a long time. In contrast, for researchers studying EoE, 20 years is a relatively short time. Twenty years of learning about EoE have led us to realize that for every question that is answered, many more questions still remain unanswered or not even thought of yet. Nevertheless, the past two decades have had a profound impact on EoE. Today, EoE has become a regularly diagnosed disease, and it is likely to be the leading cause of dysphagia. Fortunately, a number of milestone discoveries have deepened our understanding of the genetic and immunological mechanisms of EoE and led to improved therapeutic modalities.

This issue of *Digestive Diseases*, written by world-renowned EoE experts, summarizes the current knowledge and understanding of EoE. The authors not only cover a wide spectrum of research, from basic and translational scientists up to clinical researchers, but also a wide spectrum of multiple disciplines, such as allergy, pathology, immunology, and adult and pediatric gastroenterology. I greatly appreciate their contributions in making this issue an easily understandable EoE update.

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