

# Introduction

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THIS PUBLICATION BEGAN as two independent initiatives. After Dr. Janowitz became Chief of Gastroenterology at The Mount Sinai Hospital in 1958, he made inflammatory bowel diseases the main interest of the division. He had long intended to write the history of this topic after he retired as chief. Dr. Baron was a fellow in this division in 1961–1962, and after he retired (in 1996) from his national health and university service in London, he decided to devote his energies to the history of gastroenterology and to spend his winters in New York. Therefore, we joined

forces to co-edit this history of gastroenterology and hepatology in time for the millennium in 2000 or the sesquicentenary of The Mount Sinai Hospital in 2002. We produced a list of topics, wrote some chapters, and invited colleagues to contribute their expertise. We express here our gratitude to all of them and to our secretaries, Sharon Nieman and Octavia Paul, for deciphering the illegible scripts; Janine Kail, for the medical records data; and Al Lyons, Richard Steele, and Barbara Niss, the Mount Sinai archivists, for their skilled assistance.