

Introduction

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This issue of the *Cleveland Clinic Quarterly* is sponsored by the Department of General Surgery. Some of the papers were presented in January at our mid-winter postgraduate course, "Controversies in General Surgery." Other papers have been written specifically for this issue, including two papers on investigative work done jointly by members of the department, nurse clinicians in the department, and medical students who have worked with us during the past year. In addition, we are pleased to present several papers written by members of other departments.