

# Preface



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*Guest Editor*

The field of clinical lipidology has rapidly progressed beyond the simple lipid profile and the highly useful and simple paradigm of the National Cholesterol Education's Adult Treatment Panel III and its more recent modifications. More advanced measures of lipoprotein testing are being heavily marketed, newer risk-factor prediction models are being tested, more data are being accumulated on the benefits of lifestyle and pharmacologic therapies and the risks of the latter, and the use of lipid-lowering therapies are extending to younger and older patients, and to patients with renal disease or HIV where lipid-lowering therapy becomes more complex. In addition, newer medications to further lower low-density lipoprotein cholesterol and raise high-density lipoprotein cholesterol help us better understand lipoprotein biochemistry and the enormous creativity and difficulty required to develop a new safe and effective pharmaceutical compound. I have been extremely privileged in this issue of *Endocrinology and Metabolism Clinics of North America* to have worked and written with an extraordinarily gifted and informed group of experts in all these areas with the hope of helping clinicians responsible for lipid-altering therapy become more knowledgeable and thus in the end more effective in managing their patients.

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