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Preface

Adolescent reproductive endocrinology



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Guest Editor

I am thrilled that this collection of articles on adolescent reproductive endocrinology is being republished for the *Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinics of North America*. These articles first appeared in the January 2003 issue of the *Infertility and Reproductive and Medicine Clinics of North America*. Each article's author(s) have extraordinary expertise, which is important to share in published form. Sometimes adolescent reproductive endocrinology is seen as a "sub-sub-specialty." In actuality it encompasses many basics of gynecology (such as communication, normal puberty, polycystic ovarian syndrome). This foundation of knowledge allows us to address many of the more complex molecular issues and clinical scenarios, which are also addressed within this volume of the *Clinics*.

I hope you find that adolescent reproductive medicine is fascinating and that the information in these articles is useful in your clinical practice. The subjects covered encompass a wide array of topics.

Providers who deliver care in this field must have excellent communication skills and be well versed in everything from adolescent psycho-social issues to surgery to molecular biology. This issue begins with an excellent article by Drs. Bacon and Burgis on the age old challenge of communicating with this special and unique age group. At the other end of the spectrum Drs. Gracia and Driscoll describe the molecular basis of pubertal abnormalities in their up-to-date article.

New information on onset of puberty is discussed by Drs. Lalwani, Reindollar and Davis in the article on normal onset of puberty. Contemporary issues in primary amenorrhea and Turner syndrome are discussed in separate articles by Drs. Timmreck, Karnis, and Reindollar.

Drs. Strickland and Wall attack one of the most common clinical problems in adolescent gynecology, abnormal uterine bleeding, with great clarity. The controversies and new treatment options for patients with polycystic ovary syndrome are discussed eloquently by Drs. Pfeifer and Dayal. Eating disorders which often present to gynecologists as menstrual disorders or abdominal pain are detailed in a succinct and well thought out manner by Dr. Rome.

Other common adolescent reproductive problems rounding out this issue include an excellent and practical discussion of adolescent endometriosis by Drs. Attaran and Gidwani. The array of topics is finalized by a thoughtful article on common controversies in adolescent hormonal contraception by Drs. Anne R. Davis and Teal.

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