

## Preface

# Glucocorticosteroids in Allergic Inflammation



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*Guest Editor*

Knowledge about the mechanisms of action and the clinical impact of corticosteroids in allergic respiratory diseases has increased tremendously over the last decade. Based largely on short-term safety and efficacy studies, as well as potential long-term modification of disease course, corticosteroids are now considered first-line therapy for both allergic rhinitis and asthma. Moreover, current evidence supports early intervention and long-term, seamless therapy. Because of this aggressive, unprecedented approach, long-term safety has risen to the forefront. It was indeed exciting to address these issues through the writing of some of the world's experts in these fields.

This issue of the *Immunology and Allergy Clinics of North America* begins with a review of the molecular mechanisms and cellular effects of corticosteroids, and then discusses the comparative pharmacology, bioavailability, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamics of inhaled glucocorticosteroids. Next, the clinical benefits in allergic rhinitis, rhinosinusitis, and otitis media are discussed. Inhaled corticosteroids are firmly cemented in the foundation of asthma therapy, so the initiation, dose reduction, and duration of inhaled corticosteroid therapy in asthma are addressed.

Subsequent articles address the risks of corticosteroid therapy and disease management, which hinges upon the achievement of a balance between corticosteroid efficacy and safety. Misperceptions about corticosteroid safety can result in nonadherence and failure to achieve the full benefits offered by their

use. Thus the problems, solutions, and impact on the benefit/risk profile of steroid phobia are addressed in detail. The issue concludes with an article on the past, current, and future positioning of corticosteroids in asthma and allergic rhinitis guidelines.

I would like to dedicate this issue to two important individuals who passed away while it was being prepared. One was my dear friend and colleague Romain Pauwels, who passed away while preparing the article on evolution and positioning of corticosteroids in national/international asthma and allergic rhinitis guidelines. The other was my favorite uncle, Joseph Kenneth Skoner, who was an avid stone mason, fly fisherman, and inspirational teacher. I also acknowledge the support of my family and the technical assistance of Arlene Bragg.

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