

## Foreword

# Asthma and Rhinitis During Pregnancy



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*Consulting Editor*

I am honored to serve as the Consulting Editor for the *Immunology and Allergy Clinics of North America*. This series has been at the forefront of disseminating knowledge from the bench to the bedside. This is not an easy task. Biological science has enjoyed a hyper-accelerated growth phase thanks to advances in molecular biology, genomics, and biotechnology. Abnormal gene functions and molecular defects are identified in human illnesses at an ever-increasing rate. For this reason, it is very important that clinicians and trainees, as well as scientists, are kept abreast of the ongoing progress in allergy and immunology. The interest of our readership is likely to be diverse, and it is not easy to strike a balance between the basic and clinical science content of the series. Discoveries in basic science form the foundation for progress in clinical medicine. Therefore, it is my earnest desire to maintain a fine balance between basic and clinical science in each issue of this series.

The theme and content of each issue is carefully selected based upon the perceived need for an update, the depth of recent progress in the field, and the importance of the theme in the broad field of allergy and clinical immunology. I receive excellent guidance in this regard from the in-house editors at Elsevier/Saunders—Sarah Barth and John Vassallo. My utmost gratitude to them for their help! Once a theme is identified and a guest editor is invited, the bulk of the work is then done by the guest editor and the invited expert authors. The responsibility of the guest editor is to conceive the content, identify and invite experts, and

review and edit the final content. We are grateful to all guest editors for their hard and time-consuming work.

Management of diseases during pregnancy is always a challenge. Our knowledge about the physiology of pregnancy is incomplete. Maintaining a balance between maternal health benefits from drugs and their potential toxicity for the growing fetus is extremely important. We have brought together a group of experts led by Michael Schatz, who is a well-recognized authority in the field. They have prepared an outstanding update on the latest developments in asthma and rhinitis during pregnancy. The issue addresses respiratory physiology, clinical course and management of asthma, allergic conditions during pregnancy and lactation, and, finally, safety of medications in pregnancy. The issue is timely and important. I hope you enjoy it.

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