

# PREFACE

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From the complex molecular control of endocrine cell differentiation to the amazing physiology of normal growth and puberty, developmental processes represent an integral and recurrent theme within the field of Endocrinology. Our goal in the creation of this book was to incorporate the latest scientific information regarding the development of endocrine systems into a larger context in which molecular genetics is combined with state-of-the-art understanding of endocrine physiology and optimal management of endocrine diseases. Each section is organized according to the chronologic development of the human organism, from the fetal/prenatal period through childhood, adolescence, and in some cases, into adulthood. In parallel with this sequence is a consistent progression of topics, which begins with a focus on molecular genetic aspects of endocrine development and concludes with chapters devoted to the diagnosis and treatment of endocrine disorders. Our hope is that the material contained herein will provide critical information for basic researchers regarding clinical applications of laboratory investigation, and will likewise benefit practitioners by elucidating the underlying pathophysiology of the many endocrinopathies encountered in the clinical setting. Ultimately, we aim to promote the collaborative translational efforts that are essential to the dual objectives of advancing knowledge of human biology and improving our ability to care for our patients. We wish to thank our authors for their invaluable contributions to this project. Lastly, this book is dedicated with utmost love and gratitude to our husbands and to our children, Aliza, Alex, Ari, Ariana, Naomi, Sophia, and Lydia: May you always follow your dreams!

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