

PREFACE

I enjoy seeing patients, as I think most endocrinologists do. One of the things I believe we enjoy most is seeing patients who provide challenges to us, so that we have to think a little harder to find the diagnosis and to be creative in our disease management. Going to the literature and textbooks—often via the computer—to look up the latest information, discussing cases with colleagues, reaching for help by way of telephone or email from more distant colleagues with greater expertise, are part of what we do on an everyday basis to provide the best care for our patients and also to provide intellectual stimulation for ourselves. This continued desire on our part to meet such challenging cases head-on and to stimulate ourselves intellectually are the reasons I am confident readers will like *Challenging Cases in Endocrinology*.

I have asked experts in their fields to provide for us accounts of those difficult cases that have required of them extra effort and creative thinking in diagnosis and management. You will be able to follow with them how they did what they did, and why. They have also provided detailed, up-to-date, referenced discussions to put their cases into context. In this way, you will be able to bring much of this information into daily use in your own practices, and the references we have provided will allow you to look up additional material as needed. As editor, I have read all of these cases and have personally picked up information and a number of tips that I have already put to use in my own practice.

This, therefore, is a book for the *practicing endocrinologist*, whether a fellow still in training, a full-time clinician out in practice for 25 years, or a clinician/academic who only sees patients one-half day per week. You can take it on the airplane with you or read a case at a time when you can fit it in. Very few of the cases are straightforward and many provide twists or turns—almost as if you were reading a novel.

I wish to thank the authors of these chapters for taking the time out of their busy schedules to write up their cases and for sharing their clinical expertise with us. I also wish to thank Ms. Joella Ackerman for helping me keep things organized and helping with the editing. Mr. Paul Dolgert and the editorial and production staff at Humana Press have been very supportive. Finally, I would like to thank my family—Susan, Tamara, Ethan, and Michael—who are used to seeing me at home working at the computer in the evenings and on weekends, for supporting me in this endeavor.

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