

# Preface

Our knowledge and understanding of immune-mediated diseases has increased exponentially over the past few years, especially in the areas of immunopathogenesis and immunotherapeutics. Uveitis is one of the most common potentially blinding disorders, and one that is often underestimated but is now considered a leading cause of severe eye damage, particularly in younger age groups. Over the past few years, immune-mediated mechanisms—both innate and adaptive—have also been implicated in other disorders, such as diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration.

This third volume of Uveitis and Immunological Disorders in the Essentials in Ophthalmology series provides the ophthalmologist with practical information on current diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of several ocular disorders from the front to the back of the eye. In addition, there are important discussions of the mechanisms underlying these conditions, which incorporate

the most recent research material available. The scope of the chapters ranges from well-recognized immune disorders such as cornea transplantation, uveitis and diabetic retinopathy, to less well recognized but newly emerging immunologically linked diseases, such as macular degeneration. This book covers, in particular, new aspects of HLA-B27-associated anterior uveitis, keratouveitis, and steroid sensitivity in uveitis patients. Further emphasis is placed on the nature of the intraocular inflammation and systemic disorders such as Behçet's vasculitis and multiple sclerosis.

We are grateful to all of the authors that have contributed to this edition of Uveitis and Immunological Disorders. We are sure that this book will find its audience, and we hope that it will serve in the interest of many patients.

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Uveitis and Immunological Disorders

Progress III

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