
Preface

The initial volume of *Biennial Review of Infertility* was published in 2009. In the preface to that volume we shared our vision that this series would serve as a forum for evidence-based reviews of cutting-edge topics in the field of infertility, written by experts in the field and accessible and applicable to clinicians and researchers alike. We also began a tradition of highlighting and providing contrasting reviews to emerging and controversial topics. We are very pleased with the response we have had to *Biennial Reviews of Infertility*, Volume 1, and are excited now to present Volume 2.

The exponential growth of technologies and of data generated in research studies can be both breathtaking and daunting. The expansion in the number of manuscripts relevant to understanding infertility is growing not only due to growth in the number of researchers, but also due to emerging technologies, newly developing fields of study, and broad collaboration between diverse specialties. This volume includes discussion of cutting-edge topics such as epigenetics, proteomics, and the role of the environment in infertility, along with evidence-based discussion of routine clinical procedures. Together, these diverse topics are likely to benefit a wide spectrum of healthcare professionals involved in the study and treatment of infertility by providing both broad perspective and pointed practical advice.

We have all recently felt great excitement with the announcement of the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Medicine to Dr. Robert G. Edwards for his contributions to the development of in vitro fertilization as a therapy to millions of infertile patients. Dr. Edward's influence has been huge, not only in the science underpinning infertility, but also in the ethical and political arenas that impact our field. His contributions and the interface of these disciplines in our daily practices bring us to reflect on the advances we have made in understanding and treating infertility, and on the challenges that lay ahead. Such reflection can aid and inspire us in our quest to discover new insights through our studies for improved care of our patients. We hope that this volume of *Biennial Review of Infertility* can serve as a valuable reference and tool to implement "best practices" and to aid in the development of more accurate diagnoses and more effective treatments of infertility.

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