

Preface

The era of molecular diagnostics in dermatology and dermatopathology is upon us. Advances in genomics are continually redefining our understanding of the pathogenesis and classification of skin disorders. Molecular testing is transforming patient care, facilitating diagnosis, staging, and prognostication of a variety of skin diseases, in addition to guiding the selection of appropriate treatment, monitoring of therapy, and identification of novel therapeutic targets. An understanding of the principles and potential applications of molecular technologies is now essential for any physician practicing in this field. The contents of this book will be of particular interest to dermatologists and dermatopathologists, as well as anatomic pathologists and other physicians/scientists who have an interest in skin disorders, or those who would like to expand their knowledge in this area. The book covers a broad range of cutaneous conditions and specifically emphasizes molecular testing strategies with immediate clinical relevance.

I would like to thank all my collaborators in Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, Scotland, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United States of America, and Venezuela for contributing chapters and figures to this endeavor. My colleague Dr. Zende Elaba deserves special mention for her help with illustrations. In particular, I wish to extend my sincerest gratitude to my dear friend Dr. Diane M. Hoss for her advice, encouragement, and help throughout the entire process.

I have often reflected on the need for a book such as this, that one can turn to while in the clinic, at the microscope, or in the laboratory. It has been intellectually rewarding to bring this goal to fruition. I sincerely hope the readers enjoy this book and use it as a reference guide in their daily practice of medicine.

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