

# Preface

Most physicians, regardless of their area of expertise, will encounter a patient with lupus during the course of their careers, or must consider the diagnosis when evaluating a patient with a particular complaint. Often considered the prototypic autoimmune disease, it is characterized by protean manifestations and affects a wide range of organ systems. Despite the widespread availability of antinuclear antibody testing and other technological diagnostic advances, the diagnosis of lupus can be elusive, difficult, and inexact. Treatment of the disease can also be challenging, and focused upon the immune system and the specific organ system affected. Advances in immunology and biotechnology have led to a burgeoning world of new therapies in development that offer patients the real possibility of new therapies, and physicians and scientists insights into the pathogenesis of this complicated immunological disease.

This textbook summarizes the clinical aspects of lupus facing the general clinician in the twenty-first century. The reader will find introductory chapters regarding general diagnostic and treatment principles, followed by chapters addressing the lupus-specific organ manifestations. Special topics regarding pregnancy and comorbidities are also presented. All these chapters were written by highly experienced physicians with special expertise in lupus.

We hope you will find this text to be a valuable, single source, “go-to” reference for the common and not so common problems affecting patients with lupus that you may confront in your practices.

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