

Preface

As the births of living creatures are ill-shapen, so are all innovations, which are the births of time.

Sir Francis Bacon (On Innovation, ‘Essays: 1597)

Mounting evidence stemming from over 10 years of experimental, epidemiological, as well as clinical studies has transformed the once generally discounted subject of endocrine disruptors into, currently, an issue of great concern, not only within the scientific community but among society as a whole. Thus, from initially constituting the domain of purely experimental basic research, it has now emerged as a major medical challenge. Today, it is one of especial pertinence to health specialists in light of the increasing confirmation of environmental endocrine disruption in humans.

Equally significantly, it has been established that age at exposure represents an important parameter critically determining the clinical consequences of such exposure. In this respect, puberty, a crucial developmental stage, has been definitively identified as a key window of vulnerability with regard to EDs.

For these reasons, Dr. Michael Conn’s proposal that I should undertake the editing of a volume titled *Endocrine Disruptors and Puberty*, comprising a component of a thematic series reflecting the foremost advances in present-day Endocrinology, was of immense interest to me. This is an issue largely absent from the field of scientific literature, an omission that certainly needed remedying. Exposure to endocrine disruptors at puberty could, after all, alter the trajectory of the rest of an individual’s life cycle, and potentially those of their descendants. At this point I should like to express my warm appreciation to Dr. Conn both for initiating this most essential and worthy project and for his consideration of me as editor of this volume.

“In order to integrate the growing body of clinical evidence from data in humans with that of experimental scientific knowledge, I was delighted when Dr Andrea Gore, an authority on the basic research in this field, agreed to participate in this project as co-editor.”

Working closely together with the authors furnishing the chapters of this volume, all well known in the field, we have made every effort to provide an up-to-date overview of this issue.

The main objective of this endeavor will have been achieved if the reader finds in the pages of this book valuable and stimulating facts and insights, as we indeed have done throughout its preparation.

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With special appreciation to Andrea Gore Ph.D., Co-editor



<http://www.springer.com/978-1-60761-560-6>

Endocrine Disruptors and Puberty

Diamanti-Kandarakis, E.; Gore, A.C. (Eds.)

2012, XVIII, 378 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-60761-560-6

A product of Humana Press