

# Preface

*If the skin were parchment and the blows you gave were ink,  
Your own handwriting would tell you what I think.*

(William Shakespeare, *The Comedy of Errors*)

It is now understood that the interplay between environmental exposure and cellular stress response pathways plays a critical role in skin structure and function, and a refined mechanistic understanding of this phenomenon at the molecular level promises to open novel avenues for targeted therapeutic strategies that may benefit skin health of patients in the near future. The comprehensive coverage of cutaneous cell stress response pathways as presented for the first time in this book is intended to provide a state-of-the-art perspective that is of interest to both basic researchers focusing on fundamental skin biology in the context of environmental exposure as well as translational biomedical health care professionals.

With the completion of this project, I would like to express my gratitude to those who were instrumental in its creation. First and foremost, I would like to thank my co-authors from four continents who have graciously contributed their talent and time to assemble this first in a kind perspective on skin stress response pathways. Second, I am indebted to my department head Walt Klimecki for allowing me to pursue this project. Moreover, I am grateful for this outstanding opportunity and the expert support provided by Melania Ruiz and Ilse Hensen-Kooijman at Springer Science+Business Media B.V.

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