
Preface to the Second Edition

The first edition of *Male Hypogonadism: Basic, Clinical and Therapeutic Principles* was published in 2004. Since then, our understanding of the biology and clinical management of hypogonadal men has increased substantially. Much has been learned about the cellular and molecular biology of male reproduction and about testosterone treatment from carefully performed clinical studies.

This second edition builds on the first, but has changed with some new chapters and new authors, and it is now co-edited by Stephen J. Winters and Ilpo T. Huhtaniemi. The monograph is again intended for the wide audience of scientists and clinicians who are interested in the reproductive endocrinology of males and the disorders that cause its dysfunction. Accordingly, the goal of this monograph is to link the recent advances in our understanding of the biology of hypothalamic–pituitary–testicular function to improved care for our patients. The chapters were contributed by authors from around the world, and from various scientific and clinical disciplines, who have devoted their careers to the study of the biology and pathophysiology of the male.

The format of this monograph remains unchanged. Chapters 1–3 review the neuroendocrine control of testicular function, provide an overview of the steroidogenic function of Leydig cells from the fetus to adulthood, and summarize what is known about spermatogenesis and spermiogenesis. Chapters 4–12 discuss clinical disorders that cause gonadotropin deficiency and testicular failure. Chapters 13–17 summarize how exercise, the environment, obesity, and aging influence how the testis functions, and Chaps. 18–20 present current views of the benefits and risks of androgen replacement therapy and the approach to stimulating spermatogenesis in gonadotropin-deficient men. We have tried to minimize the overlap and differences of opinion, but perhaps some is beneficial.

We thank Springer Science for supporting the publication of the second edition of *Male Hypogonadism: Basic, Clinical and Therapeutic Principles*, and we thank the authors, some for a second time, who devoted a great deal of effort to prepare these informative and well-written chapters. We learned a great deal of modern medicine from reading these reviews and hope that our readers will do likewise.

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