Challenging Cases in Allergy and Immunology
Massoud Mahmoudi
Editor

Challenging Cases in Allergy and Immunology

Humana Press
To the memory of my father, Mohammad H. Mahmoudi, and to my mother, Zohreh, my wife Lily, and my son, Sam, for their continuous support and encouragement.
Preface

Sometimes we need to put down our stethoscopes, place our pens on the table, take a seat, and think deeply about a case. If all our patients were classic textbook examples, we would have easy jobs and be more productive every day. In reality, that is not the case. A challenging clinical case is somewhat like driving very fast on the freeway and then hitting a traffic jam due to an accident, forcing you to slow down quickly.

The benefits to slowing down and thinking deeply are considerable, and that, I hope, will be the result of reading these excellent cases. I have been fortunate to gather over 30 national and international experts in the field of allergy/immunology, rheumatology, and pulmonology to prepare this unique resource of challenging cases. This is a small yet comprehensive collection comprised of the thoughts and expertise of various leading educators and clinicians.

This book consists of 20 chapters covering all aspects of allergy and immunology in a case-study format. Indeed, the content covers not only the common allergic diseases such as allergic rhinitis, asthma, and food allergy but also areas in immune regulation, autoimmunity, and immunodeficiencies. Each chapter presents two or more challenging cases from one to several expert contributors. To make this product a more comprehensive medium for education, we have added five to ten multiple-choice questions and answers at the end of each chapter.

The cases presented are intended to stimulate the thought processes of all health providers involved in treating patients with allergic and immunologic diseases. All allergists/immunologists, fellows in training, primary care physicians, residents, medical students, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other allied health providers will find this collection a valuable resource. While the book is an independent source of information, it may also be combined with my other textbook Allergy and Asthma: Practical Diagnosis and Management for better cross-referencing of the subjects.

I am indebted to Richard Lansing, Executive Editor at Springer/Humana Press, for accepting my proposal and for guiding me with his thoughtful advice throughout the preparation of this manuscript. I also thank Amanda Quinn for her editorial assistance, as well as the entire editorial and production team at Springer/Humana Press for their wonderful effort in preparation of this work.
I would appreciate hearing your comments and suggestions for use in what I hope will be a second edition of this title in the years to come. Please contact me at allergycure@sbcglobal.net.

Los Gatos, CA

Massoud Mahmoudi
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