

# Preface

## Focus on the Patient with Food Allergy



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*Editor*

Much has been written about food allergy in scientific journals and in the lay press. This issue takes a novel and different view in that the focus is on the patient with food allergy. The issue opens with a most comprehensive review by Krempski and colleagues from Dr. Nadeau's group of the bidirectional flow between clinical knowledge and basic research, how mouse studies complement human studies, how both generate novel diagnostics and therapeutics and utilize novel systems biology, making food allergy an excellent example of translation research. Eapen and Kim introduce the physical phenotype of the patient with food allergy as deduced from 4 large and racially diverse cohorts of food allergy, which elucidate the interaction of race, genetics, and environment to produce sensitization and clinical allergy in a way that challenges the traditional atopic march concept. Rubeiz and Ernst follow with an examination of the psychological milestones and challenges of patients with food allergy during different stages of their lives and highlight how allergists can strengthen resilience in their patients to enhance quality of life. Warren and colleagues from Dr. Gupta's group expose the large burden of food allergy that falls disproportionately on patients from racial and ethnic minority populations and propose that, to advance equity in food allergy outcomes and management, a rigorous and standardized characterization of socioeconomic status be incorporated in future studies. Devonshire and Lin delve into the unique presentations of food allergy in infants and toddlers, specifically disorders that bridge immunoglobulin E (IgE) and non-IgE mechanisms. Mennini and colleagues from Dr. Fiocchi's group review the recent guidelines for food allergy generated by multiple international organization and call for the guidelines to not only abide by the evidence but also consider the socioeconomic realities of the countries and the patients where the guidelines will be applied. Durban and colleagues from Dr. Venter's group assembled the largest group of expert dietitians from around the world to demonstrate how dietary intervention is not limited to avoidance advice, but should

expand to a nutritionally sound plan that includes suitable alternatives to support optimal growth and development and to improve quality of life. Albuhaire and Rachid shine a ray of hope for patients with food allergy by reviewing the only Food and Drug Administration–approved therapy for peanut allergy and a promising pipeline of biologics that are considered for food allergy. Jungles and colleagues from Dr. Mahdavinia’s group enlighten us by the notion of a close interaction between the human microbiome and the susceptibility to food allergy and how the microbiome can be changed to a more favorable profile. Johansson and Merasha delve into the genetics of food allergy and the interaction of the genetic background in patients with food allergy with the environment and other atopic conditions. Engel and Bunning write from the science and from the heart about the daily difficulties faced by patients with food allergy and their caregivers and the unmet needs for this population. Finally, Dr Bahna and I, 2 academic allergists and immunologists with more than three-quarters of a century of practice experience between us, wrap up the issue with a discussion of the past, present, and future as seen from the point of view of clinicians serving patients with food allergy and how to cater to their needs so they can provide the best care.

This issue is written not only by leaders in the field in the United States and internationally but also by young faculty and residents who have answered the call to study food allergy and serve patients by carving a niche for their research. They are the future of food allergy research and clinical care.

It has been my honor to be invited to be the editor of this issue of *Immunology and Allergy Clinics of North America* on food allergy. I recall that, as an allergy and immunology fellow, I waited impatiently for each new issue of this journal and as soon as I would get it, I would not put it down until I read it cover to cover. Later, as a professor and educator, I have used many amazing issues to teach residents and fellows about allergy and immunology. I sincerely thank all the contributors to this issue and hope that it will be used to teach generations of learners about food allergy and that the patients with food allergy find and see themselves on its pages.

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