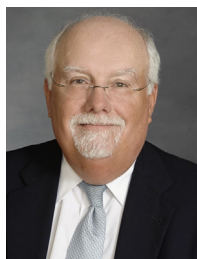


Preface

Biologic Therapies of Immunologic Diseases



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Editors

Biologic therapies are revolutionizing our understanding of and the approach to treating diseases across the spectrum of medicine. This issue of *Immunology and Allergy Clinics of North America* focuses on their use in immunologic diseases. We begin with a discussion of the basic science aspects of these intervention strategies and then focus on the disease states that may be appropriately treated with them. We also provide insights in how precision medicine-based therapy may be applied to these patients.

The issue's initial two articles deal with the immunopathogenesis and the implications for treatment of immunologic diseases (Corren) and the biologic therapies for immunologic diseases that set the stage for the strategies for immunologic interventions (Polk and Rosenwasser). We are then able to understand the characteristics of patients who may be treated with these agents and how to provide precision medicine to determine which biologic would be important for each patient (Draikiwicz and Oppenheimer). The biologic therapies for autoimmune connective tissue diseases are discussed in detail (Wolfe and Ang), and special attention is given to the new mechanism of rheumatoid arthritis (Venuturupalli). Other important chronic skin disorders that may be modulated with biologic therapies are discussed (J. Fernandez, A. Fernandez, and Lang). The new biologic therapies for asthma (Tabatabaian, Ledford, and Casale) are very important as this is a rapidly expanding area where new treatment interventions are becoming available each year. This may also be extended to chronic obstructive lung disease, described by Tripple, McCracken, and Calhoun. The upper airway is addressed with the use of monoclonal antibodies for treatment of nasal polyps (Willson, Naclerio, and Lee) and biologic therapies for IgE-mediated food allergy and eosinophilic esophagitis (Otani and Nadeau). All these biologic products may exhibit adverse reactions, and this is discussed in detail by Patel and Kahn. A very important topic concerns the pharmacoeconomics of biologic therapy. All these therapies are quite costly,

and a provocative and insightful discussion is provided by Bukstein and Luskin in this regard. The issue ends with a look to the future for new therapies that will be emerging for the treatment of immunologic disease (Kumar, Ward, and Irani).

This is an exciting time as novel biologic therapies emerge as effective treatment options for many patients with immunologic diseases. But we are only at the beginning of understanding key pathophysiologic mechanisms they highlight as well as specific disease phenotypes for which they will provide effective treatment.

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