

# New Books

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## **Adverse cutaneous drug eruptions**

Editor: French LE (Zurich). KARGER. XIV + 240 p., 43 fig, 30 in color, 34 tab., hard cover. 2012. CHF 198/EUR 165/USD 233. ISBN 978-3-8055-9970-2

The skin is one of the most frequently involved organs in adverse drug reactions. Occurring with an incidence of 1-5% for certain types of drugs, cutaneous drug eruptions are mostly benign in nature, and comprise the maculopapular type of eruption and urticaria. However, about one third of adverse drug reactions require hospital treatment, leading to a considerable burden for the health care system.

In this book, a selected group of experts provide an up-to-date, condensed and clinically relevant overview of the field of cutaneous drug eruptions, ranging from epidemiology and genetic predisposition to available therapeutic measures, including rapid drug desensitization. Reflecting the great progress made in recent years in this field, this publication will be a useful tool for a better understanding, diagnosis and management of cutaneous drug eruptions, not only for general physicians, dermatologists and clinical allergologists, but also for nurses and scientists.

## **Immunotoxicity, immune dysfunction, and chronic disease**

Molecular and Integrative Toxicology Series  
Editors Rodney R Dietert & Robert W. Luebke. HUMANA PRESS. 451 pages 19 illustrations, 10 in color. ISBN: 978-1-61779-811-5; PRICE:\$209.00; PUB DATE: May 20, 2012

*Immunotoxicity, Immune Dysfunction, and Chronic Disease* is among the first books to illustrate the linkage between environmental risk factors (e.g., chemicals, drugs, diet, lifestyles), environmentally-induced immune dysfunction and the full range of resulting chronic diseases and conditions. There is a detailed discussion of specific immune-based chronic diseases and conditions that emerge in children and adults and affect different physiological systems. The book integrates a consideration of risk factors and specific immunotoxic alterations with disease outcomes. A significant number of diseases and conditions are discussed, such as systemic allergic diseases affecting the lung, skin and gastrointestinal tract, systemic autoimmune diseases (type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis and lupus) and chronic conditions that are not traditionally associated with chemically-mediated immunomodulation (depression, frailty, and atherosclerosis). Inflammatory dysregulation is

a common thread that connects many of the diseases and conditions discussed in this book and provides a central focus. Individual chapters are organized by disease with the addition of chapters that provide integrative information on: 1) patterns of disease comorbidities and 2) the safety testing of chemicals and drugs to reduce the risk of immune dysfunction. Each chapter contains a summary of key points as well as recommendations when appropriate. The book stresses the benefits of identifying the environmental risk factors of immune-mediated chronic disease and the potential to reduce the prevalence of these diseases and conditions. This volume is a valuable resource for researchers, clinicians, risk assessors and regulators and students.

## **Allergy and the nervous system**

Chemical Immunology and Allergy, Vol 98  
Editor John Bienenstock. KARGER. XII+272 p, 51 fig., 4 tab., hard cover, 2012. ISBN 978-3-318-9984-9

In recent decades, it has become increasingly clear that the immune and nervous systems communicate with each other in a bidirectional way. The role of chronic stress in allergic disease and inflammation has been confirmed and raises the important question of how psychosocial factors influence the outcome of allergic conditions.

This book explains the roles of the autonomic, peripheral and central nervous systems in allergy and asthma. With contributions from leading authorities – both clinicians and basic researchers- it covers a wide range of topics from psychology over epigenetics to brain imaging. The 15 invited reviews discuss topics such as the role of stress in allergy and asthma, the concept of programming in utero and in childhood and adulthood, the significance of neurotrophins, and the involvement of the nervous system in the lung in asthma and lung inflammation. The interactions between mast cells and the nervous system are examined as well as the role of the gut microbiome in regulating the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis and the stress response. Further chapters are devoted to neural and behavioral changes associated with food allergy, the role of the neuroendocrine system in the skin, and the way in which itch is processed by the brain.

Unique in its field, this valuable volume is recommended reading not only for allergologists, psychologists specializing in allergy and somatic manifestations, respirologists and asthma researchers, but for anyone interested in psychoneuroimmunology.

**Vitamin D and the Lung:  
Mechanisms and Disease Associations**

Ed. Augusto A. Litonjua. Humana Press. ISBN: 978-1-61779-887-0. PRICE:\$209.00 PUB DATE: May 20, 2012. 329 pages, 49 illustrations, 24 in color

Vitamin D deficiency is a worldwide problem and many associations with diseases are being discovered. Recently, there has been an interest in the role that vitamin D plays in the inception and progression of lung disease. *Vitamin D and the Lung: Mechanisms and Disease Associations* delivers a concise, evidence-based review of the evidence for a role of vitamin D in various lung disorders. Divided into three sections, the first section of the book delivers a review of how vitamin D deficiency emerged in human populations, and gives a perspective on how humans evolved to maximize the efficiency of production of vitamin D. The second section of the book reviews aspects of vitamin D mechanisms on different immune

cells, lung tissue, and genetics that have potential impact on lung disease. The third section follows with chapters on associations of vitamin D with the risk for viral infections, asthma and allergies, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, tuberculosis, and finally, lung cancer with an emphasis on ongoing research and clinical issues and needs for future research in each field. Written by an international group of expert authors, *Vitamin D and the Lung: Mechanisms and Disease Associations* is an essential text for researchers in the respiratory field and practicing clinicians including internists, pulmonologists, and primary care personnel.

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