
Preface

Since the publication of the first edition of *Therapeutic Apheresis: A Physician's Handbook*, there has continued to be a need for a concise and practical guide for technologists, nurses, and physicians who practice apheresis medicine. In addition, there is a need for a concise but educational text for those professionals who may not practice apheresis medicine on a daily basis but who want to learn more about specialized treatments for their patients. It is the hope of the editors that this handbook can serve both roles.

This book, like the first edition, represents a joint effort by the AABB and the American Society for Apheresis (ASFA). And again, the book has six chapters. The introductory chapter reviews the basic concepts of therapeutic apheresis, including methods of blood separation, instrumentation, vascular access, anticoagulation, physiology of apheresis, and complications associated with therapeutic apheresis procedures. The second chapter is about cytapheresis, and covers plateletapheresis, leukocytapheresis, photopheresis, and hematopoietic progenitor cell collection. The third chapter, which addresses therapeutic plasma exchange, focuses on the diseases treated by this modality. The array of disease processes to which this treatment has been applied makes this chapter the longest in the book. The remaining chapters are devoted to erythrocytapheresis (red cell exchange), pediatric apheresis, and selective depletion of plasma constituents. The chapter on pediatric apheresis focuses on the unique issues and concerns associated with the treatment of pediatric patients. It also discusses diseases that are treated by apheresis and that are specific to pediatric patients, including pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS).

Although the topics covered in the second edition are similar to those covered in the first, numerous additions and changes have been made. New and updated references throughout repre-

sent the most recent advances in therapeutic apheresis. Since the publication of the handbook's first edition, the Apheresis Applications Committee of ASFA completed a literature review of diseases treated by apheresis. The results of that review, published in a special edition of the *Journal of Clinical Apheresis*, summarize the treatment of those diseases for which the committee felt a sufficient body of information exists to support the use of apheresis. This revised handbook incorporates the newest disease categorizations of the committee and includes discussions of diseases not reviewed in the first edition. Additional new content includes information on leukocyte adsorptive apheresis in the cytapheresis chapter. This new treatment modality for inflammatory bowel disease, which is undergoing clinical trials in the United States, is in clinical use in Japan and other countries. The selective depletion chapter includes a review of liver support systems that are being developed and studied. Finally, to enhance the usability of the handbook, the editors have converted commonly used information in each chapter into tables and lists for easy reference.

We hope that the reader finds our work to be concise, educational, and useful. For those readers seeking a more in-depth review of apheresis medicine, we recommend the AABB Press publication titled *Apheresis: Principles and Practice*, 2nd edition. For the most recent review of diseases treated by apheresis, we recommend the journal article titled "Guidelines on the Use of Therapeutic Apheresis in Clinical Practice: Evidence-Based Approach from the Apheresis Applications Committee of the American Society for Apheresis" by Szczepiorkowski and colleagues.¹

The editors thank AABB and ASFA for their support of this work. We also thank Janet McGrath; without her assistance, the second edition would not have been possible. Finally, we thank our families for their understanding and support as we worked on this project.

Jeffrey L. Winters, MD
Jerome L. Gottschall, MD
Editors

1. Szczepiorkowski ZM, Bandarenko N, Kim HC, et al. Guidelines on the use of therapeutic apheresis in clinical practice: Evidence-based approach from the Apheresis Applications Committee of the American Society for Apheresis. *J Clin Apher* 2007;22:106-75.