

Preface to the 1st Edition

The present volume sets forth the basic principles and the clinical practice of andrology as the science of male reproductive health and dysfunction.

This book is to be viewed against the background of the development of reproductive medicine and andrology at our center in Munster, Germany. Following the establishment of the Clinical Research Group for Reproductive Medicine by the Max Planck Society in 1980, which was succeeded by the Institute of Reproductive Medicine at the Westphalian Wilhelms University in Munster in 1989, a center of andrological research and patient care developed, based on close cooperation between basic scientists and physicians. This close cooperation between basic research and clinical practice aims to apply scientific methods to explore the reproductive functions of the male and to harness them for mankind, both in positive and negative terms. The combination of research and patient care necessitates close contact between university clinics and institutes, in particular, the Women's Hospital, Department of Urology, Institute of Human Genetics, Institute for Clinical Radiology, Institute for Medical Microbiology, and Institute for Medical Psychology. In addition, the Institute of Reproductive Medicine participates in the network of the WHO Collaborating Centers (since 1987) and the Training Centers for Clinical Andrology of the European Academy of Andrology (since 1994).

Over the course of time we have accumulated experience in patient care and have developed clinical principles, which have been published in numerous articles, reviews, and book chapters. We consider the time ripe to present our experience and view of andrology in a textbook.

In order to present a unified volume we chose our authors either from past or present coworkers of the Institute of Reproductive Medicine or from cooperating institutions. Past or present coworkers include Dr. Martin Brinkworth, Dr. M. Angelines Castel, Dr. Trevor G. Cooper, Dr. Jorg Gromoll, Dr. Axel Kamischke, Dr. Eckhard Leifke, Priv.-Doz. Dr. Alexander Lerchl, Dr. Carl-Joachim Partsch, Dr. Claus Rolf, Dr. Manuela Simoni, Priv.-Doz. Dr. Gerhard F. Weinbauer, and Dr. Ching-Hei Yeung as well as Priv.-Doz. Dr. Christian De Geyter, Dr. Maria De Geyter, Dr. Sabine Kliesch, Priv.-Doz. Dr. Ulrich A. Knuth, and Dr. Dieter Meschede. Professor David J. Handelsman spent a 9-month sabbatical at our Institute while the book was being written. Intensive cooperation with the Women's Hospital under the directorship of Professor Dr. Hermann P. G. Schneider is of essential importance for patient care. We are closely connected to the University Urology Clinic, and this cooperation is reflected in the authorship of Professor Dr. Lothar Hertle, Priv.-Doz. Dr. Hermann van Ahlen, and Dr. Frank Oberpenning. Our patients receive psychological counseling from Professor Dr. F.A. Muthny, and Dr. Regina Oberpenning, of the Institute of

Medical Psychology. Professor Dr. Klaus Demmer, a native of Munster, has advised the Institute on ethical questions for many years. Susan Nieschlag, M.A., serves as the Institute's editor and has contributed editorial input for this volume as well. She has translated some chapters in their entirety and language-edited all others. We hope that the intellectual background shared by the authors will help to present a unified picture of andrology in this book. We thank all authors for their speedy cooperation. Strict adherence to deadlines contributed to the volume's unified appearance and to its timeliness. The Institute's secretaries, Kerstin Neuhaus, and Angelika Dütthmann deserve a great measure of thanks for word processing. Thanks too go to the members of the Springer Publishing House, Dr. Carol Bacchus, Marga Botsch, and Bernd Reichenthaler, who were responsible for the book's appearance and prompt handling. We hope that the reader will use this volume to his own advantage and to that of his patients. We are grateful for all comments and criticism.

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