



**Autoimmune Diseases in Endocrinology, edited by Anthony P. Weetman, MD, DSc**

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**Reviewed by Samuel P. Marynick, MD**

**T**his text is written in a way that allows either a superficial or in-depth approach toward understanding how dysfunction

of the immune system produces many different endocrine diseases. After reading this volume, the reader will have an appreciation for how diminished the field of endocrinology would be if the immune system did not malfunction to produce hormonal imbalances and associated changes in health.

The text is comprehensive. Features of the immune system that predispose individuals to autoimmune endocrine diseases are discussed in depth. The first three chapters serve as an introduction to immunology to prepare the reader to understand the chapters that follow.

Each chapter begins with a concise summary, telling the reader what will be covered. This is helpful, like a preacher telling you what the sermon will be covering. These summaries ready the mind for the tasks at hand.

The second and largest section of the text covers autoimmune thyroid diseases. This group of chapters covers basic science and animal models of these diseases, epidemiology, genetic risk factors, environmental risk factors, and immunopathogenesis of autoimmune thyroid disorders. These chapters are followed by discussion of diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of the management of autoimmune thyroid diseases, including Graves'

disease, autoimmune hypothyroidism, postpartum thyroiditis, and thyroid-associated ophthalmopathy and dermatopathy.

The third section of the text discusses type I diabetes mellitus: animal models of type I diabetes mellitus, pancreatic islet cellular autoantigens as they relate to type I diabetes mellitus, and the diagnosis and management of type I diabetes mellitus in humans.

Part IV of the text is devoted to the less common but historically interesting autoimmune diseases. These five chapters cover Addison's disease, premature ovarian failure, autoimmune hypophysis, and autoimmune polyglandular syndromes type I and type II.

The text has many tables, figures, and illustrations. However, being a visual learner, I could have benefited from more of these. I found myself rereading the text on occasion, trying to understand a concept that could have been conveyed more clearly using an illustration, figure, or table. For example, neither chapter 3, "Environmental Factors in Autoimmune Endocrinopathies," nor chapter 4, "Animal Models of Autoimmune Thyroid Disease," has any figures, tables, graphs, or illustrations.

The history of the discovery and evolution of understanding and treatment of autoimmune endocrinopathies is important for the student of endocrinology. Many of the text chapters, but not all, have a reasonable compilation of the history and development of understanding regarding the particular endocrinopathy covered. The text would be improved were a historical review of the subject of each chapter presented.

A problem common to writing a textbook is that by the time the volume is published, the information presented is partially out of date. However, with this drawback accepted, this text will remain a helpful addition to my library as patients are seen, diagnoses sought, and treatment rendered.

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