

From the Editor-in-Chief

Several articles in this volume of *Clinical Cases in Mineral and Bone Metabolism (CCMBM)* are devoted to hyperparathyroidism. Hyperparathyroidism is an increasingly recognized disease. We gained knowledge over the last decade on the pathogenetic basis of this complex syndrome at an explosive pace. The spectacular progress of the basic and clinical ramifications of these four tiny endocrine glands contributed to a concomitant new appreciation by scientists and physicians.

At the clinical level, we have seen a remarkable evolution in the presentation of primary hyperparathyroidism. Basic science greatly helped to understand molecular features of this disease. New knowledge of the pathophysiology of different forms of hereditary primary hyperparathyroidism has had direct impact on management and clinical outcome. This incomplete summary on congenital forms of primary hyperparathyroidism argues persuasively for how fast and how far this field has advanced.

In this issue of *CCMBM* you will find, besides a review by Alberto Falchetti and Maria Luisa Brandi on “Hereditary hyperparathyroidism”, reviews on topics including parathyroid tumorigenesis, calcium-sensing receptor, asymptomatic hyperparathyroidism, and familial hyperparathyroidism.

Filomena Cetani and colleagues reviewed the field of parathyroid tumorigenesis and this review helps to shed more light on disease pathogenesis, opening new avenues on future therapies.

Jacob Tfelt-Hansen and Edward Brown introduced new insights in the role of calcium-sensing receptor in hereditary disorders of calcium homeostasis.

John Bilezikian covered the important concept of asymptomatic hyperparathyroidism with an ample discussion on present and future management options.

Examples of hereditary primary hyperparathyroidism syndromes are extensively treated by leaders in the field including an original Case Report from Tommaso Marcucci and colleagues.

To conclude this introduction we would like to quote the father of parathyroid gland disorders, Fuller Albright, who with a hand of spectacular clinical investigators wrote the classic *The Parathyroid Glands and Metabolic Diseases*:

“MANY PEOPLE SEE WELL BUT NEGLECT TO LOOK”.



The first parathyroid adenoma ever recorded. (Anatomical Wax Collection, “La Specola” University Zoological Museum, Florence, Italy).

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