

## **SUMMARY REVIEW OF THE BOOK**

Allergic diseases including asthma, rhinitis, sinusitis, conjunctivitis, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, certain occupational lung diseases, dermatitis and food-induced allergies are major diseases with high morbidity recognized all over the world. These diseases affect millions of people and have shown a marked increase in recent years, particularly in the industrialized nations. Fungi constitute a major player in most of these allergic diseases. In addition to causing asthma and allergy, mold is also implicated in severe life-threatening infections and toxins-associated illnesses of varying severity, morbidity and mortality. The importance of fungi as allergens, pathogens or toxins has attained increasing recognition in recent years. Mold-associated allergy can be induced by fungal spores and antigens present both in indoor and outdoor environments.

Allergy, once a confounding puzzle for researchers, has emerged as a branch of science and medicine where immunology, genetics, biochemistry, physiology, and pharmacology are uniquely inter-phased. The remarkable strides achieved in the field of allergology have resulted from the concurrent advancement in basic and clinical research in the past two decades. Allergic diseases have been known to ancient Egyptians, Indians, and Chinese. Records of available herbal treatments can be traced in traditional Chinese and Indian medicine

This book reflects the state-of-the-art understanding on fungal allergy. Chapters have been designed to deal with clinical, immunological, pathological, and therapeutic aspects of the disease. Immune mechanisms have been dealt with in detail to encompass

all the different pathways that have been identified. Different clinical presentations, antigens/allergens, immune responses and animal models of fungal allergy are presented in various chapters. Genetical aspects as well as antigen specific immunotherapy and the emerging clinical disease, namely toxic mold syndrome, are all presented in this book.

This volume has twenty five chapters all written by outstanding experts in the respective fields. The first seven chapters deal with clinical and immunological aspects of asthma and rhinitis caused by fungi. ABPA, asthma, rhinitis and allergy in cystic fibrosis are presented in detail. IgE-mediated allergy caused by *Alternaria*, *Cladosporium*, *Penicillium*, *Saccharomyces*, and *Fusarium* is discussed. Aerobiology is summarized in Chapter 8, while immunological, pathological, and radiological aspects of the disease are covered in Chapters 8 to 12. Animal models of asthma and fungal allergy are reviewed in Chapter 13, while immune responses and immune regulation are dealt within Chapters 14 to 18. Genetics, mycotoxins, hypersensitivity, pneumonitis, indoor-mold-related sickness, and genetical aspects are covered in the subsequent chapters. A Chapter on the nomenclature of allergens and the currently accepted list of all fungal allergens is also included.

The Book on " Mold Allergy, Biology and Pathogenesis " edited by Prof. Viswanath Kurup, Medical college of Wisconsin is now published by Research Sign Post. This volume contains the state of the art information in Allergy and Immunology. Outstanding Clinicians and Scientists have contributed to this volume. The contributing authors represent countries like USA, Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Russia, India, Japan, China, etc. A large number of color illustrations are included through out the chapters and will help in the identification of allergenic and toxigenic molds. There are 25 chapters and approximately 450 pages covering all aspects of allergy. The Book can be obtained from Research Sign Post, T.C. 37/661 (2), Fort P.O., Trivandrum-695023, Kerala, India for \$ 150.00.