PREFACE

During pregnancy, a woman undergoes a multitude of normal physiological changes and is subject to a variety of pregnancy-specific diseases. Furthermore, there are a number of diseases that can affect the unborn fetus and the physiological status of the fetus can in turn affect the mother. Taken together, laboratory testing during pregnancy can be complicated and confusing.

The aim of *Handbook of Clinical Laboratory Testing During Pregnancy* is to aid clinicians and laboratorians in the art of diagnosis during pregnancy using laboratory testing. Currently, there is not a comprehensive text available that focuses exclusively on clinical laboratory testing in the pregnant patient. The focus of this handbook is on the use of laboratory tests during pregnancy, including the effects of normal physiological changes on test results; the proper use of laboratory tests; interpretation of results; changes in reference ranges; monitoring the pregnant patient; methodologies; and such new technologies as molecular diagnostics. Topics are not limited to clinical chemistry, but also include molecular biology, serology, immunology, and hematology. Included is a comprehensive appendix of normal reference ranges in pregnant women. These ranges are compiled from the literature, which should prove an excellent resource for any medical professional.

Laboratorians, medical directors, physicians, medical technologists, students, clinical chemists, nurses, physician's assistants, and researchers from the in vitro diagnostics and pharmaceutical industries should find *Handbook of Clinical Laboratory Testing During Pregnancy* to be a useful reference.

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