



Dermatol Clin 26 (2008) xi

## **Preface**





Valencia D. Thomas, MD Charles R. Thomas, Jr., MD

Guest Editors

Rashes may not just be skin deep. The skin can be a window into the internal workings of the human body, allowing for the elegant and critical diagnosis of internal malignancies and other systemic conditions. As our largest organ, our skin is a complicated structure whose role in barrier function, homeostasis, nutrition, and immune function is indispensable. By focusing a trained eye toward the subtle signs and symptoms of the skin, we can better serve our patients.

The intricate relationship between the skin and internal malignancies is only part of the story, however. The addition of therapeutic interventions further complicates the relationship between the skin and malignancy, challenging the skin in extreme and powerful ways. Both the physician and the patient must understand and address the iatrogenic complications of chemotherapy and radiation therapy to maintain the best health possible for the patient.

This issue of *Dermatologic Clinics* is devoted to the discussion of both the cutaneous manifestations of internal malignancy and the complex relationship between cancer treatment and the integument. The authors of "Internal Malignancy and the Skin: Paraneoplastic and Cancer Treatment-Related Cutaneous Disorders" are some of

the leaders in the fields of dermatology, cutaneous oncology, and radiation oncology. The collaboration between these talented individuals has resulted in a comprehensive overview of malignancy and the skin that can provide additional guidance to those treating patients who have cancer.

We would like to thank Dr. Neil Swanson, Alexandra Gavenda, Elsevier Publishing, Oregon Health Sciences University, and the various authors for their hard work and continued support.

> Valencia D. Thomas, MD Section of Cutaneous Oncology and Dermatologic Surgery Department of Dermatology Yale Medical School 40 Temple Street, Suite 5A New Haven, CT 06510, USA

E-mail address: Valencia.thomas@yale.edu

Charles R. Thomas, Jr., MD
Department of Radiation Medicine
Oregon Health and Science University
M/C L337, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, OR 97239-3098, USA

E-mail address: thomasch@ohsu.edu