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Abbreviations

AMH  anti-müllerian hormone
BMI  body mass index
DBCP  dibromochloropropane
CBAVD  congenital bilateral absence of the vas deferens
cGMP  cyclic guanosine monophosphate
CFTR  cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator
CMV  cytomegalovirus
DHEA-S  dehydroepiandrosterone sulphate
ERPOC  evacuation of retained products of conception
FAI  free androgen index
FSH  follicle-stimulating hormone
GIFT  gamete intrafallopian transfer
GnRH  gonadotrophin-releasing hormone
GP  general practitioner
hCG  human chorionic gonadotrophin
HFEA  Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
hMG  human menopausal gonadotrophin
HRT  hormone replacement therapy
HSG  hysterosalpingogram
ICSI  intracytoplasmic sperm injection
IgA  immunoglobulin A
IgG  immunoglobulin G
IUI  intrauterine insemination
IVF  in vitro fertilisation
LH  luteinising hormone
LHRH  luteinising hormone-releasing hormone
M/ml  million per millilitre
NICE  National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
OHSS  ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome
PCOS  polycystic ovary syndrome
PID  pelvic inflammatory disease
RCT  randomised controlled trial
SHBG  sex hormone-binding globulin
TRH  thyroid-releasing hormone
TSH  thyroid-stimulating hormone
WHO  World Health Organization
ZIFT  zygote intrafallopian transfer
Preface

This concise volume – completely up to date and written by experts in their fields – is certain to be popular as the demands on the gynaecologist from patients seeking help with their suboptimal fertility continues to grow. Issues related to fertility never seem to be far from the gaze of the media and this, together with the Internet journeys of our patients, can sometimes make them appear the ‘experts’. Therefore, as obstetricians and gynaecologists we need to ensure that we are up to date, informed and knowledgeable to successfully engage with our patients.

In each chapter of this revised edition, current evidence-based knowledge is concisely summarised and the contentious issues are addressed. This book will be of use not only for those updating their knowledge but also will be of great value to those who are hoping to impress their examiners.

This eagerly awaited volume is a succinct contemporary overview of infertility management. I hope you enjoy it.

Jenny Higham
December 2006
The management of infertility in the 21st century needs to tread a careful line between the rapid pace of technological advances and the relative paucity of robust evaluative data supporting such developments. As in the previous edition, this book presents an overview of evidence-based fertility treatment and highlights areas where such evidence is lacking.

In this edition, all the chapters have been extensively revised to include new sources of evidence and reflect changes in practice. We hope that this book will continue to meet the needs of candidates for the MRCOG as well as specialists who wish to consult a concise, readily accessible text.

Siladitya Bhattacharya and Mark Hamilton

December 2006