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# Fetal Medicine

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# Fetal Medicine

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## Preface

The practice of fetal medicine has seen many significant advances over the last decade or so. Those that come to mind are the introduction of non-invasive screening for Down syndrome, the ability to diagnose and appropriately counsel more complex fetal abnormalities, better understanding of the role of fetal Doppler studies in the areas of growth restriction and red cell allo-immunisation and the rapidly expanding indications for fetoscopic and open fetal therapy.

To appropriately train the future generation of fetal medicine specialists, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) has prescribed a curriculum for subspecialty training for those super specialists who will be based in tertiary referral centres, acting as the hubs in the so-called 'hub and spoke' model of clinical network system of healthcare service provision. In any such system a vital role is played by the specialists that form the spokes of this system. Most of them will be based in district hospitals; they will carry out the job of a general obstetrician and gynaecologist but harbour and maintain a special interest in the discipline of fetal medicine.

The RCOG's advanced training skills module (ATSM) in fetal medicine aims to educate and train such specialists. When we planned to write this book, our intention was to create a one-stop source of knowledge for the ATSM in fetal medicine. We enlisted the authorship of renowned experts and wanted to contain the depth and breadth of their knowledge, expecting them to focus on the ATSM syllabus. However, as

readers will testify, on many occasions we were unsuccessful in curbing their enthusiasm and desire to share their vast knowledge and clinical experience. We do hope that the end result, although aimed primarily at those who wish to complete the ATSM in fetal medicine, will also serve as a ready source of knowledge in the day-to-day work of many fully trained practitioners who have a special interest in this area.

This book draws on knowledge acquired from our many successes, but also provides lessons from those clinical episodes that did not go according to plan. If this book helps readers to avoid those clinical errors which we have made, then our effort as editors will have been worthwhile.

We thank all the authors for their dedication in writing their chapters and going through the laborious process of both responding to our editorial queries and proofreading their own work. We acknowledge the tireless help and effective support of the staff at John Spalding Library, Wrexham Maelor Hospital, in their timely assistance with online searches and provision of copies of required published material.

Before we conclude, we must thank our patients, who have been the biggest source of education and learning, and without whom this book would be both impossible to compile and rendered purposeless.

Bidyut Kumar  
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