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Preface

Eric A.P. Steegers, Marilyn J. Cipolla, Eliza C. Miller

Neurology and Pregnancy is a two-volume comprehensive multidisciplinary guide to best practices for neurologists, obstetricians, and other specialists who care for women with acute or chronic neurologic disorders. All aspects of care for the pregnant woman with neurologic illness, such as preconception care, genetic counseling, pregnancy in patients with chronic neurologic disorders, and acute pregnancy-related neurologic complications, are covered. Postpartum care and complications, including lactation concerns, are also addressed, as are the long-term effects of pregnancy and its associated problems on maternal brain health.

In the first volume (vol. 171 of the *Handbook of Clinical Neurology*), the complex neurophysiologic changes in pregnancy are summarized from a basic and translational science perspective. This is followed by a discussion of general issues relevant to the provision of multidisciplinary neurologic care for pregnant patients, including neuroimaging, the principles of neuro-obstetric critical care, and ethical and medicolegal concerns. The final part describes normal fetal cerebral development and summarizes the management of the most common prenatal neurologic disorders.

The second volume (vol. 172 of the *Handbook of Clinical Neurology*) covers acute neurologic disorders presenting in pregnancy, including preeclampsia/eclampsia, ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke, and infections of the central nervous system. This is followed by discussions of chronic neurologic conditions, such as epilepsy, migraine, and multiple sclerosis. As innovative care can be achieved only by the continuous integration of clinical management with advances in research, all chapters provide insights into the newest developments in related translational neuroscience and the implications for the future of the field.

The many contributors to this volume reflect diverse perspectives, from basic and translational researchers to clinicians and clinical researchers in a broad range of specialties. We are grateful to have been given the opportunity to learn and benefit from their extraordinary expertise. Michael Parkinson, the development editor, has thoughtfully provided vital support throughout the process of bringing this work to publication.

We believe that this text will improve the complex multidisciplinary care needed for pregnant women with neurologic disorders, contribute to improved maternal and fetal outcomes, and enhance the long-term health of mothers affected by neurologic disease and also that of their children.