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Introduction

We are like dwarfs on the shoulders of giants, so that we can see more than they, and things at a greater distance, not by virtue of any sharpness of sight on our part, or any physical distinction, but because we are carried high and raised up by their giant size.

Bernard of Chartres, 1130

DESPITE THE STUNNING ACHIEVEMENTS and the promise afforded by all things concerning our genes and their transcribed proteins, such time-honored technologies as histology and the principle of clinico-pathologic correlation endure today in the practice of dermatology as it did nearly 100 years ago. Shapes, colors, and the pattern evoked by pathologic change in histologic sections of tissue captivate not only our visual sense, they prevail as both the fundamental method of diagnostic discernment and the forerunner of pathogenic assignment. The practice and practicality of dermatopathology as forged by the likes of Helwig, Lever, and Ackerman will continue to thrive into the foreseeable future.

This issue of *Seminars in Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery* will review the dermatopathology and pathogenesis that underlie the vesiculobullous disorders, its variants including the pustular and spongiotic dermatoses and malignant cutaneous-derived tumors. Age-old problems such as those regarding the limitations imposed by the static examination of tissue in the dynamic setting of immunologic dyscrasia of the blistering disorders are redressed, as is the assignment of malignancy and histogenesis in the adnexal and various epidermal-derived tumors. Recent advances in the field of immunology and the promise bestowed by the sensible application of immunohistochemistry will be amalgamated with traditional techniques in this current appraisal.

This project represents the fruition of a much-labored and dedicated effort contributed to by numerous colleagues and resident-physicians in the fields of pathology and dermatology from several institutions across the United States. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to work with these scholar physicians.

Michael Brandon Morgan, MD
Guest Editor