

INTRODUCTION

Over the past 30 years, women's health has come to the forefront of medical science and policy. The establishment of the United States Health and Human Services "Women's Health Committee" in 1984 led to several important milestones that changed the face of women's health in this nation. Such achievements included the increased inclusion of women in clinical trials, expanded health care access for reproductive and nursing rights, the creation of an HPV vaccine to protect our young women, and improved breast cancer screening and technology. American women today enjoy a longer lifespan than ever before.

Alongside these great advances was the development of botulinum toxin, soft tissue fillers, lasers, and light sources. This ushered in an era of noninvasive technology that would change the face of anti-aging medicine forever. Growing demand for these procedures amongst women exploded over the same time period, necessitating a thoughtfulness to the unique female mind, body, and spirit. Physicians must therefore pay careful attention to female-specific diagnoses, both medical and aesthetic in nature, and learn to tailor cosmetic treatments to several female-specific conditions.

Finding solutions for female-specific concerns in a safe, effective, and noninvasive manner is the hot-button topic of today's industry and research. As such, this issue of *Seminars in Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery* is appropriately titled "Aesthetic Considerations in Women's Health" and highlights the most up-to-date research and cosmetic therapeutics for female-specific health issues.

Readers will find a combination of in-depth reviews and expert opinion pieces on a variety of topics, including the newest technological advances in feminine wellness and vaginal rejuvenation procedures. It is important for the dermatologist to understand the past, present, and future directions regarding this new class of energy devices in order to best advise patients. Other timely topics include an update on melasma, cellulite, and striae treatment, guidelines for the use of platelet-rich plasma in female pattern hair loss, unique features of female skin of color, and an innovative

guide to contact dermatitis in female-specific products. With the continuing rise of female authority and leadership in both medicine and purchasing power, appreciating a woman's perspective will only become more important over time.

We would like to thank all the contributing authors for their hard work and dedication to this issue, which holds personal importance as female physicians ourselves. We especially thank our mentors for their continued support and for the opportunity to serve as guest editors of this prestigious journal. Your open mind and encouragement allowed us the freedom to create an issue of significance that will further improve upon women's health. We hope this issue fills in knowledge gaps, increases comfort levels, and instills pride in our specialty as leaders and innovators of women's health.

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