# Preface

THE AABB FIRST PRESENTED A LANDMARK WORKshop and monograph on polyagglutination in 1980. The aim of the workshop was to present information on the etiology, identification, biochemistry, and clinical aspects of this unusual problem termed polyagglutination. The faculty members of this workshop were the prime investigators and workers in the field of immunohematology at the time. The pivotal work of Dr. George Bird, Director of the Regional Blood Transfusion Service (Birmingham, England) was prominently presented in this workshop. He was the main investigator and the person who developed lectins from plants, seeds, snails, and other organisms to help classify each type of polyagglutination.

The workshop faculty (John Moulds, John Judd, Malcolm Beck, and Dr. Bird) also served as authors and editors of the monograph. Instrumental in promulgating the workshop and manual were the Committee for Technical Workshops, chaired by Delores McGuire Mallory, and the assistance of Steve Pierce to proofread the chapters and assist in publication.

In this new edition, polyagglutination is first reviewed from the historical perspective starting in 1888 with Peter Hermann Stillmark. Stillmark derived an agglutinin from seeds of the castor tree, a lectin that is now known as ricin. Paul Ehrlich used ricin to study the fundamental properties of immunology in mice. Karl Landsteiner discovered the hemagglutinating properties of lectins in nontoxic plant extracts. George Bird became the expert on the subject and study of lectins, which led to the identification and categorization of different forms of polyagglutination.

Included in additional chapters are updates on two types of polyagglutination: TR, the most recent form that has been reported, and NOR, described decades ago and since determined to be a blood group antigen in the P1PK blood group system. Also included is information on CAD polyagglutination and its association with the $Sd^a$ antigen, which is part of the new blood group SID (ISBT #038). The only allele in this system is $Sd^a$ or SID1.

In the final chapter the diagnosis and management of a patient with a type of red cell polyagglutination is thoroughly explored and the controversy of giving blood or plasma transfusions is clarified. Concluding the content is a useful appendix describing various lectins and their binding capacities.

I wish to thank all the authors for their dedicated efforts to complete this project. It has taken a few more months than expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but I hope readers will find that the result is an important new resource on this unusual transfusion medicine topic.

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