

Foreword

Allergic diseases are of increasing prevalence around the world. There is also evidence of significant morbidity from this group of conditions. Despite its relatively common occurrence, there is still a significant lack of understanding of the cause(s), its management and even more so the prognosis and also prevention of these diseases. This applies not only to parents, the general public but also healthcare workers. It is very timely that a book encapsulating the spectrum of facts relevant to the understanding and appreciation of allergies in childhood is written. This is even more beneficial and useful when it encompasses the local

cultural and traditional beliefs that significantly impact on its management.

Professor Hugo Van Bever has been in clinical practice in pediatric allergy for more than 25 years, spending more than 15 years in Europe and more recently 7 years in Singapore. With a deep appreciation of the clinical issues in childhood allergy and having personally been involved in teaching and research in this field, Professor Hugo is the most aptly qualified to pen such a book. He has also been an active member of “I CAN !” (The Children’s Asthma and Allergy Network) at the University Children’s Medical Institute (UCMI) of the National

University Hospital, Singapore. The program emphasizes asthma and allergy education, facilitating and encouraging every child with asthma and allergies to lead a totally normal and active lifestyle despite the conditions. This book is very much an extension of this program, dedicated to the parents, caregivers and anyone who cares to know more about asthma and allergies in childhood and who is committed to helping these children lead an unrestricted fruitful life.

I am very pleased and proud that the pediatric services in NUH continues to contribute to patient care and education in practical ways that enhance

the quality of life of our young patients and their families. I am certain that this book will be an important tool for every parent and even healthcare workers and an indispensable guide for every medical student alike.

I congratulate Professor Hugo on this achievement and you, the reader, for making the right choice to further your understanding of asthma and allergies. I wish you many hours of fruitful learning and more importantly application of this knowledge for the good of the very people it is meant to benefit – our young ones with asthma and allergies in Singapore and the region and beyond.

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