

Steven D. Billings  
Jenny Cotton

# Inflammatory Dermatopathology

A Pathologist's  
Survival Guide

Second Edition

 Springer

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*This book is dedicated to my wife, Beth, and daughter, Maeve. I am ever grateful for all the joy you bring me and for your love and support.*

*Thank you:*

*I especially want to thank Drs. Yu-Hung Wu and Jasmin Jamora. This book would not have been written without your help. I would also like to thank my residents and fellows who always teach me as much as I teach them. I would also like to thank Dr. Kelsey McHugh for her contribution to the book.*

*Steven D. Billings*

*To the three wonderful men in my life: my husband, Andrew, and my sons, Nathan and Jackson.*

*Thank you:*

*I want to thank all the many colleagues in pathology and dermatopathology who continue to educate me on a daily basis.*

*I would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Brian Schapiro for his assistance in editing select chapters in this book.*

*Jenny Cotton*

*We would also both like to thank our mentors: Drs. Lawrence Roth, Thomas Ulbright, Evan Farmer, Sharon Weiss, and William Moores. We especially thank Dr. Antoinette Hood for all her patient teaching, support, and enthusiasm.*



# Preface to the 1st Edition

When I was a first-year resident, I emerged from my first dermatopathology conference with only one thought in mind: I would never study dermatopathology. It was all too confusing. Everything looked alike, and the terminology was impenetrable. Never say never. Somehow I was able to overcome that first shock with the help of our colleague Dr. Cotton and our mentor Dr. Antoinette Hood. Several years later, I am now charged with teaching dermatopathology to residents and fellows as well as CME courses for practicing pathologists and other dermatopathologists.

This brings us to this book. Clearly, there are other much more encyclopedic dermatopathology textbooks out there than this relatively thin tome. So, why this book? Probably it is because I keep running into residents and practicing pathologists who have the same reaction I had when I first encountered the subspecialty of dermatopathology. There is hope. Dermatopathology is hard, but it is not as hard as it is made out to be. A quick weekend of reading this book should help demystify inflammatory dermatopathology. It is meant to be a practical resource, a survival guide if you will, for surgical pathologists and residents for the approach of inflammatory diseases of the skin. Most of the entities commonly encountered in daily practice are covered in this book, with an emphasis on practical points that are useful in everyday practice. To increase the practical usefulness, we have also included a novel aspect. While most pathology texts do an admirable job describing histologic features and discussing differential diagnoses, writing the report is an art never discussed. Therefore, to increase the usefulness of the text, we have also included sample reports at the end of each chapter to provide examples on how we approach signing out our cases. We hope you enjoy this book. More importantly, we hope you find it useful in your practice.

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Ann Arbor, MI, USA

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Jenny Cotton





# Preface to the 2nd Edition

We are back. It is hard to believe that it was 2010 when we first put this book together. While I have written many scientific papers and book chapters, this was a project near and dear to my heart in a way that not many others have been. I remember distinctly being quite proud when this book came out. I could not wait to show my family the product of the many hours of our work. When I showed it to my daughter, she replied, “Kind of small isn’t it?” Needless to say I was a little crestfallen when greeted with that comment. It is one of the gifts children give you: humility.

And yes, it is kind of small. Quite frankly, that is the point of this book. It is meant to be a small, quick reference on inflammatory diseases of the skin. It covers most of the common inflammatory diseases of the skin likely to be encountered in daily practice, as well as a few less common entities. It is not meant to be an all-inclusive comprehensive textbook on dermatopathology. There are other books that serve that purpose. Rather, this slender tome is really meant as an approachable survival guide for practicing pathologists and residents.

We have added additional material in this edition, with updates to prior chapters and the inclusion of a chapter on alopecia and a section on inflammatory lesions of the conjunctiva, thanks to the efforts of Drs. Brian Schapiro and Thomas Plesec, respectively. One of the unique aspects that we have maintained from the original text is the inclusion of sample reports at the end of most of the chapters to illustrate how we sign out cases.

We hope you find this book useful and that it helps you with the challenging area of inflammatory skin diseases.

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