Welcome to the January 2017 issue of the Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. The editorial team has been working hard for you, our readers, to provide the very best, most useful publication for the practicing allergist-immunologist, and other readers as well—from basic and translational scientists who can see what is relevant to practicing clinicians in terms of research questions, to other members of health care teams who seek to update and expand their knowledge about new findings, perspectives, and efforts in our field. As this is the last year of this editorial team’s tenure, I want to preview some of the features we have planned for you in the 2017 Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

First, be sure to check out this issue for our annual review of our favorite articles from the pages of last year’s Annals.1 This is a summary written by all of the editors that will hopefully pique your interest to go back and read these articles if you have not done so, or review them if you have. This has become an annual feature, and we have had very positive feedback about its usefulness by a broad spectrum of readers. Of course, we always hear about articles not featured that readers think should have received mention. If you are in that group, please send us a correspondence note through our online submission site (http://ees.elsevier.com/annallergy), and we will publish your comments about why you would recommend a specific article for others to read.

Also in this issue of the Annals begins a new monthly series, “How Allergen Extracts are Made – From Source Materials to Allergen Extracts,” which has been guest edited by Drs Richard Lockey, Robert Esch, and Rosa Codina. We have been working on this project for almost a year, and the series will feature 11 contributions from distinguished colleagues around the world to provide a broad perspective by describing the processes from the diverse source materials in nature that elicit the symptoms of allergic sensitization to the products that we use to test our patients in the office. I have learned an incredible amount from this series already and look forward to having each of you gain better insight into these products we use in the diagnosis of our patients’ diseases. The first installment in this issue written by Dick Lockey2 provides a more comprehensive overview of the series. Don’t miss it.

In addition to these new features, we have continued our popular features that readers comment are so useful to their practice. Our CME series continues this year, and we will have 4 case-based CME articles that can be used as part of your ABAI maintenance of certification requirements for allergy-immunology related CME. The other 8 monthly features are varied and interesting and include topics on managing antibody deficiency syndromes, environmental impact of allergy, a primer for allergists on obstructive sleep apnea emphasizing the points we need to be most familiar with (such as the marked associations between OSA and AR), and many others. This is a feature you will not want to miss.

Another feature that we instituted in 2016 and will continue into 2017 is the immensely practical series called “Disease in a Nutshell” that is led by Dr Guha Krishnaswamy. This series presents illnesses that are not in the mainstream of what we, as AI specialists, normally care for, but can often masquerade as allergic illnesses in our new and existing patients. The articles succinctly describe both the classic and more uncommon clinical presentations and give a brief description of pathophysiology and approach to therapy which may include specific referrals. The article is brief enough that the clinician could literally step out of the exam room and spend 5 minutes reviewing the hows and whys of an illness that we may not see on any sort of regular basis. This feature will be available under the “Collections” tab on the Annals website homepage (http://www.annallergy.org). Previous articles in this series have focused on such diagnoses as atrophic rhinitis, empty nose syndrome, aspiration-induced pulmonary syndrome, and Stevens-Johnson Syndrome/TEN.3–5 There will be more to follow.

Our entire editorial team wishes each of you a happy and prosperous 2017. As always, we welcome all comments and suggestions that will make our journal better tomorrow than it is today.

Gailen D. Marshall, Jr, MD, PhD, DFACAAI
Editor-in-Chief
Department of Medicine
University of Mississippi Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi
gmarshall@umc.edu

References