Dedicated to
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PREFACE

Fetal medicine is now a well established subspecialty and is a vital part of any perinatal service. This field is huge and encompasses a wide range of conditions covering diverse areas ranging from genetics to perinatal pathology. Advances, particularly in the fields of non-invasive prenatal diagnosis and imaging, make this a constantly evolving specialty and an occasionally challenging one for the generalist obstetrician. Fetal medicine is very much a multidisciplinary specialty and it is imperative that anyone working in this area is sensitive to the fact that long-term outcome is not always predictable on antenatal imaging or testing and I hope that this is evident throughout the text.

A working knowledge of fetal medicine is essential for any obstetrician or obstetric physician and this book aims to provide a practical guide for clinicians of any grade who care for pregnant women with a fetal problem. It is by no means comprehensive, but hopefully covers many of the common important conditions encountered in clinical practice. The principles of management are discussed in broad detail in every chapter. Although the opinions contained within this book are a distillation of current published evidence and established practice, there is inevitably some personal preference and opinion that has influenced certain recommendations. I am grateful to all my colleagues for their support, but most importantly for their critical comments and advice.

I very much hope this handbook is useful to practicing clinicians who are involved in perinatal care and that it provides them with practical and sensible management options.

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