This is the new, seventh edition of this certainly most important and most famous textbook in dermatology/venereology. This edition is dedicated to the memory of two innovators in the field, whose visionary approach to dermatology is reflected throughout: Thomas B. Fitzpatrick and Irvin M. Freedberg. Dr. Fitzpatrick (d 2003) was Wigglesworth Professor of Dermatology Emeritus at Harvard Medical School and founder of Dermatology in General Medicine (DIGM) as well as its Editor-in-Chief for the first four editions. Dr. Freedberg (d 2006) was Professor of Dermatology at New York University Medical Center and Editor-in-Chief for the fifth and sixth editions, having led the book to new heights.

This, seventh edition of DIGM has been reorganized and substantially rewritten to reflect the current state of dermatological science, practice and art of dermatology. More than 50 percent of the text and 50 percent of the authors are new. Clinical entities are grouped within sections according to pathogenetic and causative mechanisms. Each section is introduced by relevant basic science chapters.

To achieve the goal of making the text readily accessible to readers at all levels of expertise, there are now two versions of the book, printed version and on-line version. To save the space in print, the majority of references are available on-line. The on-line edition and on-line references can be found at www.digm7.com. The on-line edition provides additional detailed text, images, charts, algorithms and up-to-date literature references.

The layout of DIGM has also changed. At the beginning of each chapter there is an “At a glance” overview giving us the key points of each chapter. Algorithms for diagnosis and therapy guide us through the clinical thought process. Boxes on differential diagnosis and a wealth of diagrams, additional charts and new images enhance understanding of the text. Attention getting icons lead the reader to additional contents on-line. The first three chapters of this precious book are dedicated to the epidemiology and burden of skin disease, evidence-based dermatology and basic pathologic reactions of the skin. In part two, disorders presenting in the skin and mucous membranes are described. Special sections are dealing with inflammatory disorders based on T-cell reactivity and disregulation, inflammatory disorders based on neutrophils and eosinophils, inflammatory diseases based on abnormal humoral reactivity and other inflammatory disease, disorders of epidermal differentiation and keratinization, disorders of epidermal and dermo-epidermal cohesion and vesicular and bullous disorders, disorders of der-
mal connective tissue, disorders of subcutaneous tissue, disorders of melanocytes, and disorders of the oral and genital integument. In part three, disorders of skin appendages and in part four disorders due to environment are presented. Part seven includes sections on carcinogenesis, epidermal and appendage tumors, melanocytic tumors and tumors and hyperplasias of the dermis and subcutaneous fat. In part eight, the skin changes and diseases in systemic disease are described: cutaneous changes in nutritional and metabolic disease, skin manifestation of bone marrow and blood disorders, manifestations of internal organ disorders and autoimmune disease, skin in inflammatory and other vascular disorders. Part nine is dedicated to diseases due to microbial agents, infections, bites and stings, whereas part eleven presents therapeutics: topical therapy, systemic therapy, physical treatment, complementary and alternative dermatology, surgery in dermatology and cosmetic dermatology.

With this new, seventh edition of DIGM, its editors and authors have certainly achieved the goal set in the foreword to integrate the current state-of-the-art in dermatology and venereology into a single comprehensive and consistent reference that will serve the educational and reference needs to entire dermatology community.

Head Doctor Aida Pašić, MD, PhD

Elida cream – for every day; year 1930.
(from the collection of Mr. Zlatko Puntijar)