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Topical Applications and the Mucosa

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Current Problems in Dermatology

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Preface

The diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the mucosa are a challenge for dermatologists and gynecologists, since many conditions are difficult to recognize, and well-established principles of treatment of skin diseases cannot be simply extrapolated to the mucosa. Mucosal membranes have unique anatomical and physiological properties. Drug or chemical absorption is different from that in keratinized epithelium, and research as in other areas (i.e. keratinized skin) is largely missing.

Few books are exclusively devoted to the mucosal membrane. We hope to establish a better understanding of this unique mucosal area and to encourage the needed research. We also hope that this attempt to compile information will be valuable to its intended audience.

This book aims to gather the current knowledge in this field to the benefit of physicians, pharmacists, scientists, clinicians and toxicologists alike. After introductory chapters on the morphology and physiology of the mucosa, the topical treatment of impaired mucosal membranes is discussed. A third section then covers the wide spectrum of consumer products applied to mucosal surfaces. Finally, the safety of products used on mucosae is reviewed.

The editors would like to thank the contributing authors for their enthusiasm and support. We would also like to thank the staff of Karger Publishers for their help with the project.

We are looking forward to receiving critical feedback from our readers for improvements of this text.

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