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Nota di contenuto	Asthma; Contents; List of contributors; Preface; Acknowledgements; Part 1: Epidemiology; 1 P.M. MATRICARDI AND S. BONINI: Why is the incidence of asthma increasing?; 2 E. VON MUTIUS: Why is asthma more common in the West?; 3 R. BEASLEY, J. DOUWES, J. PEKKANEN AND N.E. PEARCE: How much asthma can be attributed to atopic sensitization?; 4 A.J. CHAUHAN: Is air pollution important in asthma?; Part 2: Pathophysiology; 5 E.R. SUTHERLAND AND R.J. MARTIN: Is infection important in the pathogenesis and clinical expression of asthma? 6 B. BJORKSTEN: Does infection in early life protect against or cause asthma?; 7 S.T. WEISS: Does asthma progress to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease?; 8 P.G. WOODRUFF, S.L. PRESCOTT, P.G. HOLT AND J.V. FAHY: Antenatal factors in the development of atopy and asthma?; 9 I. SAYERS, B. BEGHE, J. HOLLOWAY AND S.T. HOLGATE: Genetics of asthma: what's new?; Part 3: Treatment; 10 D. SMALLWOOD AND J.

WILSON: Can airway fibrosis be prevented?; 11 A. CUSTOVIC AND A. WOODCOCK: Does allergen avoidance help? What are the practical measures that patients can take?

12 P.J. HELMS: Is early treatment of children necessary? 13 P.J. BARNES: What are the mechanisms of corticosteroid resistance in asthma?; 14 J. C. KIPS, K.G. TOURNOY AND R.A. PAUWELS: What new therapies are being developed for asthma and will they offer something better than steroids?; 15 M.R. SEARS: What is the role of long-acting (32-agonists in the treatment of asthma?; 16 M.E. WECHSLER AND J.M. DRAZEN: What is the role of leukotriene modifiers in the treatment of asthma?; Part 4: Delivery of Care; 17 D. PRICE: What are the issues in delivering care in primary care?

18 B.D.W. HARRISON AND S.M. MILDENHALL: Are asthma clinics useful: should they be run by the doctor or the nurse? 19 M.R. PARTRIDGE: Should asthma be managed by the patient or the doctor: is education important?; 20 B.D.W. HARRISON AND S.M. MILDENHALL: Are psychosocial factors important in asthma?; Index

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#### Sommario/riassunto

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Asthma is one of the most important diseases affecting our society. It is an extremely common condition that reduces quality of life, and acute exacerbations can be life-threatening. It affects a disproportionate number of children. With the overwhelming volume of research being carried out in this field specialists need a method of keeping up-to-date with current opinion. As with the other 'Challenges' books, 'Challenges in Asthma' is aimed at hospital specialists and therefore assumes a certain level of knowledge about the disease. It builds on this by discussing only areas of controversy

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