PREFACE

Much information has accumulated over the past 15 years on neuromuscular diseases in dogs and cats. My first review on this subject in 1987 covered only several pages and relatively few diseases; now, an entire volume cannot fully cover the subject. Neuromuscular diseases can be very difficult diagnostic challenges not only for general practitioners but also for specialists. It is my hope that this issue provides useful guidelines for the identification, diagnosis, and available treatments of these disorders. While space limitations do not allow coverage of all disorders, I have aimed for a state-of-the-art book that will be useful reference material for several years to come for students, residents, practitioners, and specialists. It may present a challenge to some, but that is the nature of the topic.

I would like to take this chance to thank several people that have had a great influence on my career, including George H. Cardinet III, DVM, PhD for nurturing my interest in muscle diseases and teaching me the importance of quality work, Jon Lindstrom, PhD for invaluable training in myasthenia gravis, Andrew G. Engel, MD for setting the bar so high, and David N. Bailey, MD and Henry C. Powell, MD, DSc, for taking an interest in my work and giving me a chance. I would like particularly to thank my husband, Robert J. Botte, DVM for support and always being there for me, and my parents, now deceased, for teaching me the importance of dedication and hard work. I would also like to thank all of the contributing authors for submitting articles that are of excellent quality, and John Vassallo at W.B. Saunders Company for bringing all of this together.

G. DIANE SHELTON, DVM, PhD
Guest Editor

Department of Pathology
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, CA 92093-0612