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Although food allergy was first described a long time ago, as outlined in the chapter 'Historical background, definitions, and differential diagnosis', only in recent times has it started to be recognized as one of the major allergic diseases. In the past 50 years since the discovery of IgE by Dr. K. Ishizaka, we have experienced a steep increase in the prevalence of allergic diseases. The prevalence of food allergy around the world has not yet been clarified in detail. It is quite obvious that we have faced a rapid increase in patients with food allergy in both childhood and adulthood in most developed countries in the past 3 decades. The number of publications on food allergy reached 100/year in 1971 based on a PubMed search, and it went up to 500/year at the beginning of the 21st century and finally to more than 1,200/year in 2014. It is clear that food allergy research is currently a very hot topic among academics and that issues related to food allergy attract a lot of attention. We have collaborated with distinguished, world-class professionals on food allergy research and practice to put this book together. The topics are very practical and applicable to your practice. We hope that this book on food allergy will help clinicians, academics, and paramedics to better understand current food allergy practice and research.

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