

# Introduction

Retinoids have been extremely valuable in the treatment of many dermatologic conditions for decades. Since the last review on “The use of retinoids in dermatology” in *Dermatologic Therapy* (1998, volume 7), our understanding of their mode of action has increased, which in part has fueled their use in both the cosmetic and pharmaceutical arenas. At the same time, real and significant, as well as controversial side effects have required dermatologists to take careful and rational approaches to retinoid use. More than ever, practicing dermatologists must keep up not only with science, but also with evidence-based clinical use, side-effect profiles and regulatory issues associated with the use of retinoids. In this monograph, recog-

nized world experts in retinoids provide timely updates on their use, with a focus on practicality. Seven major areas covered in this issue are psoriasis, cutaneous T cell lymphoma, acne, dyspigmentation, cosmeceuticals, photoaging, and chemoprevention of skin cancers. These articles should serve as a reliable reference not only for these specific dermatologic conditions, but for other related disorders where retinoids may be useful.

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