Contents

About this book... ix
Acknowledgments xi
List of Abbreviations xiii

1 The respiratory system 1
  Zoe’s breathing difficulties... 2
  Grandma’s bad chest... 14

2 The cardiovascular system 29
  John is a worried man... 29
  Max is attacked! 40
  More problems for Irene... 43
  Back to John’s exam... 46
  John’s little elephant... 57

3 The gastrointestinal system 65
  Mary’s burning stomach... 65
  Mary’s severe backache... 76
  Mary, 27 years on... 77
  ‘Why does everything I eat turn to fat?’ 85

4 The urinary system 99
  Max’s great pain 100
  Max is fighting, and losing...again! 103
  Max’s cola urine 109
  John’s diabetic kidney 110
  Going back to Max... 112

5 The endocrine system 121
  Mary is slowing down... 121
  Zoe’s moon face... 129
  Max’s terrible headache... 135
  Little John can’t stop drinking... 136
  John’s losing control... 140

6 The musculoskeletal system 143
  Max and the motorcycle... 143
  More problems for Max 151
  The open book... 153
  John’s done his back in! 153
  The boy in the wheelchair 157
Irene’s dinner fork... 158
Brittle bone boy with blue eyes... 163
Big Head... 165
Jane’s hot joints... 165
John and his hot, red, big toe... 171

7 The nervous system 173
Jane’s carpal tunnel 173
Albert’s tremor... 177
A bad night for Irene... 182
Little John’s rash... 185

8 The reproductive system 211
Debbie’s changes... 211
Debbie wants a baby... 214
Debbie and Max visit the fertility clinic 220
John has a new embarrassing problem... 227
Debbie is pregnant! 227
Debbie’s concerns... 236
The birth 239
Mary’s changes... 243

9 Genetics, oncology and haematology 245
Albert’s bleed... 246
Maria is always tired 253
Little John’s scare... 258
Jimmy’s big, red, painful knee... 261
John’s clot busters... 263
Albert has more tests... 264

10 Infection and immunity 275
Debbie goes to the doctors; she is pregnant again!! 276
Debbie’s water works problem... 288
Baby Zak gets pneumonia... 291
Ted gets DIC and ARDS after surgery... 294
Max is lost to follow up... 298
Max gets very sick... 302
Debbie has a new partner... and a new problem 303
Max’s blood transfusion 303
Epilogue 306

Recommended further reading 307

Index 309