

Seventh Edition

Forfar & Arneil's

TEXTBOOK
of **PEDIATRICS**

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Commissioning Editor: Pauline Graham
Development Editor: Janice Urquhart
Project Manager: Nancy Arnott
Design Direction: Erik Bigland
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TEXTBOOK
of **PEDIATRICS**

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Edited by

Neil McIntosh DSc(Med) FRCP(Edin) FRCP(Lond) FRCPCH

Professor of Child Life and Health, University of Edinburgh;

Honorary Consultant Paediatrician, Lothian University Hospitals NHS Trust, Edinburgh, UK

Peter J. Helms MB BS PhD FRCP(Edin) FRCPCH

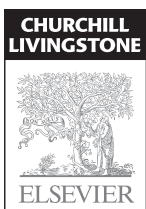
Professor of Child Health, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK

Rosalind L. Smyth MA MB BS MD FRCPCH F Med Sci

Brough Professor of Paediatric Medicine, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

Stuart Logan MB ChB MSc(Epidemiology) MSc(politics) MRCP FRCPCH

Professor of Paediatric Epidemiology; Director, Institute of Health Research, Peninsula Medical Service School, St Luke's Campus, Exeter, UK



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Note

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Preface

One of the most important developments in the 21st century has been the acknowledgment that clinical practice should be embedded where possible in a sound evidence base. The editors of this new edition of *Forfar & Arneil's Textbook of Pediatrics* continue to set contributors the challenging task of ensuring that the statements and recommendations made are based on the most robust clinical research available. The objective assessment of evidence and the formulation of secure recommendations from the evidence are gathering pace. In Child Health the evidence base, with the possible exception of disciplines such as oncology and neonatology, is not as comprehensive or as well defined as we would wish. This edition of Forfar & Arneil continues to flag up the most important evidence sources for the content of each chapter. The whole book has been revised and updated and the chapter authors and editors again incorporate where possible secure evidence of therapy, diagnosis, etiology and prognosis. This evidence is incorporated into the individual chapters and in the chapter reference list is starred for easy reference. We believe that the result is the most comprehensive evidence-based general textbook of pediatrics available. Our ability to access best evidence has been greatly enhanced by the rapid advances of information technology and electronic

publishing and consequently another important new feature for this edition is a website of the text in which references listed in PUBMED can be accessed via the internet. We would like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of the many individual authors and our chapter editors, without whom this ambitious project would not have been possible. It has been a great privilege to work with them. We would also like to thank our own secretaries for their unstinting help (Elaine Forbes, Flora Buthlay, Collette Lorne and Stella Taylor) and of course our respective families for sharing the burden with us.

As with previous editions the book is produced by the Elsevier Organization. There have been many highly professional people involved. We hope that this new 7th edition with its expanded formal evidence base will be well received by you, the reader, and become as trusted a friend and guide as have previous editions.

Neil McIntosh
Peter J. Helms
Rosalind L. Smyth
Stuart Logan

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Contents

List of Contributors xv

Color plate section

Section 1

FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH AND PRACTICE

1	Evidence-based child health <i>Rosalind L. Smyth</i>	3
	Introduction.....	3
	The practice of evidence-based medicine	4
	Systematic reviews.....	5
	Evidence-based child health	6
	How textbooks ensure that they are evidence based	6
	Clinical evidence within the 7th edition of Forfar & Arneil	7
	Summary	9
2	Epidemiology of childhood diseases <i>Stuart Logan</i>	11
	Introduction.....	11
	Mortality rates.....	11
	Mortality in poor countries.....	12
	Childhood mortality in the industrialized world.....	13
	Morbidity in childhood.....	14
	Population determinants of child health.....	16
3	Healthcare delivery in resource limited settings <i>Elizabeth Molyneux</i>	21
	Background	21
	The philosophy of care.....	21
	Human resources.....	22
	Health care financing	22
	Drug supply – the pharmaceutical pipeline.....	22
	National health programs.....	22
	Health delivery and the referral chain	23
	Vertical, parallel or horizontal services?.....	23
	Information, surveillance and research.....	23
	High-impact health interventions.....	23
	Training	24
	Dilemmas and constraints	24
	Summary	25
4	Preventive pediatrics <i>Harry Campbell,</i> <i>Rachael Wood</i>	27
	Determinants of child health	27
	Contribution of health services to improving child health.....	27
	Health promotion and disease prevention	28
	Child health advocacy	28
	A life course approach to disease prevention.....	29
	Support for parenting.....	33
	Child health screening and surveillance	33

Immunization..... 34
Information resources relevant to preventive
pediatrics

5	Child protection <i>Alison M. Kemp,</i> <i>Sabine Maguire</i>	45
	Background	45
	Historical perspective.....	45
	Prevalence	45
	Child protection process	46
	Physical abuse.....	46
	Child sexual abuse.....	50
	Emotional abuse.....	51
	Neglect.....	52
	Effects of domestic violence on children	52
	Adult mental health, substance abuse and child protection.....	53
	Protecting the child	53

6	Accidents, poisoning and SIDS <i>Ronan Lyons,</i> <i>John M. Goldsmid, Maurice A. Kibel,</i> <i>Alan E. Mills, Peter J. Fleming, Peter Blair</i>	55
	Poisoning in childhood.....	55
	Unintentional injuries.....	60
	Injury prevention	63
	Poisonous bites and stings.....	65
	Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)	71

7	Developmental pediatrics <i>Alison Salt,</i> <i>Jenefer Sargent</i>	81
	Introduction.....	81
	Theories of child development.....	81
	Factors that affect development	82
	Normal development	84
	Detecting and assessing developmental problems	85
	Development: normal or abnormal?	85
	Learning impairments.....	108
	Interpretation of abnormal development using an evidence-based approach and developmental assessment findings.....	110
	Services for children with neurodevelopmental disability.....	110

8	History, examination, basic investigations and procedures <i>Julie-Clare Becher,</i> <i>Ian Laing</i>	115
	Introduction.....	115
	Clinical history	118
	Physical examination	120
	Examination of individual systems	127
	Invasive examinations.....	135

The newborn.....	136	Birth trauma <i>Neil McIntosh</i>	202
General principles of common investigations	144	Perinatal asphyxia <i>James Tooley</i>	204
Principles and practicalities of diagnostic imaging	151	Hypoxic–ischemic encephalopathy (HIE)	
General principles of common practical		<i>James Tooley</i>	205
procedures	154	Resuscitation in the newborn <i>Malcolm Levene</i>	207
9 Pediatric prescribing <i>George Rylance</i>	159	The small for gestational age infant <i>Neil McIntosh</i>	211
Introduction.....	159	The large for gestational age infant <i>Neil McIntosh</i>	213
Drug handling processes	159	Care of the preterm infant.....	213
Pharmacokinetics.....	160	Developmental care <i>Yvonne Freer</i>	213
Prescribing principles	160	Special care – fluid balance <i>Terence Stephenson</i>	215
Drug interactions	161	Special care – sodium and potassium <i>Helen Budge</i>	219
Drugs in breast milk	161	Special care – thermoregulation <i>A. J. Lyon</i>	221
Unlicensed medicines and use of licensed medicines		Special care – enteral nutrition <i>Alison Leaf</i>	225
for unlicensed applications	161	Intensive care of the newborn	229
What parents and children need to know about		Organization of neonatal intensive care services	
medicines.....	161	<i>Ben Stenson</i>	229
10 Ethics <i>Ben Stenson, Sheila McLean</i>.....	163	Practical parenteral nutrition <i>David Wilson</i>	231
Introduction.....	163	Blood gases and respiratory support <i>Ben Stenson</i>	233
Children's rights.....	163	Neurodevelopmental outcome <i>Janet Rennie</i>	239
Children and capacity – communication		Neonatal death <i>Neil McIntosh</i>	242
and consent	163	Problems of the newborn	245
Best interests of children.....	164	Pulmonary disorders and apnea <i>Henry L. Halliday</i>	245
Genetic testing	169	Neonatal cardiovascular disease <i>Nicholas Archer</i>	261
Research.....	169	Gastrointestinal problems and jaundice of the	
Mental health care	171	neonate <i>David Wilson</i>	269
A role for ethics committees?	171	Hematological problems of the newborn	
Conclusion.....	171	<i>Irene A. G. Roberts, Cristina Halsey</i>	283
Appendix.....	171	Neonatal neurology <i>Janet Rennie</i>	297
		Renal disease in the neonate <i>Ian J. Ramage</i>	309
		Eye problems in the newborn <i>Alistair R. Felder</i>	314
		Infection and immunity in the newborn	
		<i>Paul T. Heath</i>	319
		Neonatal neoplasia <i>Neil McIntosh</i>	332
		Neonatal metabolic disorders <i>Robert Hume</i>	333
Section 2		13 Infant feeding <i>Anthony F. Williams</i>	367
PERINATAL/NEONATAL MEDICINE		Introduction.....	367
		Breast-feeding.....	367
11 Fetal medicine <i>Stephen C. Robson, Steven Sturgiss</i>	175	Breast milk substitutes.....	371
Prenatal screening and diagnosis of congenital		Manufacture of infant formula.....	372
abnormalities.....	175	Complementary feeding – weaning.....	373
Maternal serum screening.....	175		
Ultrasound	175		
Combined serum and ultrasound screening.....	176		
Management of prenatally detected structural			
anomalies	177		
Invasive procedures and fetal surgery.....	180		
Assessment of fetal size and well-being	181		
Multiple pregnancies	186		
Alloimmunization	187		
12 The newborn <i>Neil McIntosh, Ben Stenson</i>.....	191		
Introduction.....	191		
Definitions – World Health Organization (WHO)			
<i>Neil McIntosh</i>	191		
The economics of newborn care <i>Stavros Petrou</i>	192		
The normal fetal–neonatal transition <i>Neil McIntosh</i>	195		
Routine care of the full-term infant.....	198		
Examination of the neonate <i>Sam Richmond</i>	198		
Labor ward routines <i>Ben Stenson</i>	199		
Postnatal ward routines <i>Ben Stenson</i>	200		
Feeding the full-term newborn			
<i>Nicholas D. Embleton</i>	200		
The high risk newborn.....	202		

Section 3

THE SPECIALITIES

14 Genetics <i>Michael A. Patton</i>.....	379
Introduction.....	379
Epidemiology	379
Mitosis and meiosis	380
Chromosomes.....	381
Types of chromosome abnormality	383
Nomenclature	384
Chromosomal syndromes.....	385
Sex chromosome abnormalities.....	391
Single gene disorders: inheritance.....	393
DNA and gene action	396
Multifactorial inheritance.....	402
Malformation syndromes	404
Counseling and genetic services.....	405

15 Endocrine gland disorders and disorders of growth and puberty <i>Christopher J.H. Kelnar, Gary E. Butler</i>	409
Mechanisms of hormone action.....	410
History taking and examination.....	412
Endocrine tests.....	413
Fetal endocrinology.....	414
Neonatal endocrinology.....	417
Disorders of sexual differentiation.....	418
Physical growth and development.....	422
Growth regulation and disorders of growth.....	436
Obesity and thinness.....	445
Endocrinological aspects of puberty and adolescence.....	447
Abnormal puberty.....	450
Other disorders related to female and male reproduction.....	458
The hypothalamo-pituitary unit.....	460
The pineal gland.....	464
The thymus.....	465
The thyroid gland.....	465
Parathyroid glands and calcium metabolism.....	473
The adrenal glands.....	478
Endocrine hypertension.....	487
The endocrine consequences of curing childhood cancer.....	489
The pancreas and carbohydrate metabolism.....	489
Diabetes mellitus.....	491
Hypoglycemia.....	503
16 Nutrition <i>Barbara Golden, John Reilly</i>	513
Nutrition, growth, development and disease.....	513
Nutritional requirements.....	513
Applications and limitations of dietary reference values.....	514
Nutritional requirements during infancy and childhood.....	514
Nutritional assessment.....	515
Healthy diet: infancy, childhood and adolescence.....	518
Principles of nutritional support.....	519
Obesity.....	522
Malnutrition.....	523
Micronutrient deficiency and excess.....	526
17 Fluid, electrolyte and acid–base disturbances <i>Gale A. Pearson</i>	531
Introduction.....	531
Differences among babies, children and adults.....	532
Maintenance fluid and electrolyte requirements.....	532
Ongoing losses.....	533
Monitoring.....	533
Total body water and sodium balance.....	534
Compartmental distribution of water and electrolytes.....	534
Acid–base.....	535
Disturbance of acid–base.....	536
Cautionary notes on laboratory tests of fluid and electrolytes.....	537
Fluid and electrolyte disturbance.....	537
Conclusion.....	540
Appendix 1: Physical and physiological influences on the internal distribution of water and electrolytes.....	540
Appendix 2: Acid–base chemistry and blood gas measurement.....	543
18 Disorders of the urinary system <i>Moin A. Saleem, Jane Tizard, Jan Dudley, Carol Inward, Richard Coward, Mary McGraw</i>	545
Renal physiology.....	546
Assessment of renal function.....	548
Renal tubular disorders.....	550
Congenital abnormalities of the urinary tract.....	555
Renal cystic disease.....	557
Urinary tract infections.....	560
Vesicoureteric reflux.....	565
Enuresis (wetting).....	568
Hematuria.....	569
Glomerulonephritis.....	572
Proteinuria.....	578
Nephrotic syndrome.....	580
Renal hypertension.....	584
Acute renal failure.....	587
Chronic renal failure.....	592
19 Disorders of the alimentary tract and liver <i>W. Michael Bisset, Susan V. Beath, Huw R. Jenkins, Alastair J. Baker</i>	601
Introduction.....	602
Gastrointestinal function.....	602
Nature of gastrointestinal disease.....	603
The mouth.....	603
The esophagus.....	604
The stomach and duodenum.....	608
The small intestine.....	613
Malabsorption.....	615
Inborn errors of digestion and absorption.....	621
Investigations of the small intestine.....	623
Gastrointestinal tumors.....	624
The pancreas.....	624
Disorders of gastrointestinal motility.....	626
Acute infective diarrhoea.....	626
Protracted diarrhoea in early infancy.....	629
Intestinal failure.....	630
The colon.....	634
Inflammatory bowel disease.....	634
Chronic gastrointestinal symptoms.....	638
Hepatic and biliary disease.....	642
Charities and organizations.....	654
20 Respiratory disorders <i>Edited by Peter Helms, John Henderson</i>	657
Introduction <i>Peter Helms, John Henderson</i>	658
Development of the respiratory system <i>Peter Helms</i>	662
Respiratory physiology, pathophysiology and the measurement of respiratory function.....	664
Specific clinical indications for airway endoscopy.....	680
Special investigations – imaging <i>Keiran McHugh</i>	671
Endoscopy of the airway <i>James Y. Paton, Jonathan Coutts</i>	678

Sleep disordered breathing <i>John Henderson, Stephen Stick and Peter Fleming</i>	683	<i>Pamela Tomlin</i>	930
Asthma <i>Paul L P Brand, Johannes H. Wildhaber</i>	689	Childhood stroke syndromes <i>Vijaya Ganesan</i>	939
Congenital abnormalities <i>Andrew Bush</i>	697	Speech and language delay and disorders <i>Ian McKinlay</i>	942
Rare lung diseases <i>Andrew Bush</i>	703	23 Disorders of the blood and bone marrow <i>Paula Bolton-Maggs, Angela Thomas</i>	959
Cystic fibrosis <i>Alan Smyth</i>	706	Hematological assessment in childhood.....	959
Respiratory infections <i>Heather Elphick</i>	715	Anemia.....	959
Respiratory defenses and infection in the compromised host <i>Tom Hilliard</i>	723	Deficiency anemias.....	960
Chronic lung disease of prematurity <i>Sailesh Kotecha</i>	727	Aplastic anemias.....	964
21 Cardiovascular disease <i>Edited by Denise J. Kitchiner</i>	743	Hemolytic anemias.....	966
Clinical assessment of heart disease <i>Denise J. Kitchiner</i>	743	Disorders of hemoglobin synthesis.....	969
Electrocardiography <i>Christopher Wren</i>	748	Secondary anemias.....	974
Chest radiography <i>Denise J. Kitchiner</i>	750	Eosinophilia.....	975
Echocardiography <i>Jonathan R. Skinner</i>	750	Disorders of hemostasis.....	975
Cardiac catheterization <i>Denise J. Kitchiner</i>	758	Leukemia.....	982
Other cardiac investigations <i>Denise J. Kitchiner</i>	760	24 Oncology <i>Guy Makin, Stefan Meyer</i>	991
The asymptomatic child with a murmur <i>Denise J. Kitchiner</i>	761	Incidence and prevalence.....	991
Heart failure <i>Denise J. Kitchiner</i>	762	General principles of diagnosis.....	999
Infective endocarditis <i>Denise J. Kitchiner</i>	763	Principles of therapy.....	999
Congenital heart disease <i>Denise J. Kitchiner</i>	765	Central nervous system tumors.....	1005
Fetal diagnosis of heart disease <i>Denise J. Kitchiner</i>	766	Glial tumors.....	1006
The neonate with a congenital heart disease <i>Jonathan R. Skinner</i>	767	Brainstem tumors.....	1008
The infant and child with congenital heart disease <i>Denise J. Kitchiner</i>	780	Ependymoma.....	1008
Cardiac arrhythmias <i>Christopher Wren</i>	792	Choroid plexus neoplasms.....	1009
Acquired cardiovascular disorders <i>Denise J. Kitchiner</i>	799	Embryonal tumors.....	1009
22 Neurology <i>Edited by Colin Ferrie, Richard Newton and Tim Martland</i>	811	Pineal tumors.....	1010
The neurological consultation <i>Richard Newton</i>	811	Intracranial germ cell tumors.....	1010
Investigation of suspected neurological disorders <i>John H. Livingston</i>	813	Craniopharyngioma.....	1011
Giving the news of disability <i>Richard Newton</i>	817	Lymphomas.....	1011
Development of the human brain <i>Richard Newton</i>	818	Neuroblastoma.....	1015
Neural tube defects <i>Richard Newton</i>	825	Nephroblastoma (Wilms tumor).....	1019
Hydrocephalus <i>Richard Newton</i>	830	Mesoblastic nephroma.....	1021
The neurocutaneous diseases <i>Richard Newton</i>	837	Soft tissue sarcomas.....	1021
Seizures, epilepsy and other paroxysmal disorders <i>Colin Ferrie</i>	841	Osteosarcoma.....	1023
Headache and migraine <i>Ishaq Abu-Arafah</i>	872	Ewing sarcoma.....	1025
Disorders of movement <i>Michael Clarke</i>	878	Germ cell tumors.....	1026
Cerebral palsy <i>Ian McKinlay</i>	888	Retinoblastoma.....	1028
Degenerative brain disorders <i>Omar Ismayl</i>	898	Liver tumors.....	1029
Neuromuscular disease <i>Mary Imelda Hughes</i>	904	Langerhans cell histiocytoses.....	1030
Decreased consciousness and coma <i>Timothy R. Martland</i>	920	25 Gynecological diseases <i>Anne S. Garden</i>	1039
Infectious and inflammatory disorders of the CNS <i>Timothy R. Martland</i>	925	Introduction.....	1039
Acute paraparesis or quadraparesis <i>Timothy R. Martland</i>	929	Physiology.....	1039
Traumatic (accidental and non-accidental) brain and spinal cord injury and neurorehabilitation		Problems at birth.....	1039
		Problems in early childhood.....	1040
		Bloodstained vaginal discharge.....	1040
		Problems of puberty.....	1041
		Problems of adolescence.....	1043
		Teenage pregnancy.....	1046
		26 Inborn errors of metabolism: biochemical genetics <i>Edited by Neil R.M. Buist, Robert D. Steiner</i>	1049
		Introduction <i>Neil R. M. Buist</i>	1050
		Disorders of amino acid metabolism <i>Markus Grompe</i>	1052
		Miscellaneous amino acid disorders.....	1067
		Fatty acid oxidation disorders <i>Cary O. Harding</i>	1067
		Disorders of carbohydrate metabolism <i>Cary O. Harding</i>	1071

Disorders of pyruvate metabolism and the Krebs cycle, and lactic acidemia <i>Neil R. M. Buist</i>	1079	Fever and increased respiratory rate <i>Craig Mellis</i>	1192
Mitochondrial disease <i>Greg M. Enns, Neil R. M. Buist</i>	1081	Cough and fever <i>Craig Mellis</i>	1193
Classification.....	1086	Rhinitis <i>Craig Mellis</i>	1193
Genetic counseling.....	1087	Noisy breathing <i>Craig Mellis</i>	1194
Disorders of lipid, lipoprotein and bile acid metabolism <i>P. Barton Duell, Jean-Baptiste Roulet, Robert D. Steiner</i>	1089	Suspected meningitis <i>Nigel J. Klein</i>	1194
Lysosomal storage diseases <i>Neil R. M. Buist, Robert D. Steiner</i>	1101	Septic shock <i>Nigel J. Klein</i>	1197
Peroxisomal disorders <i>Leesa M. Linck</i>	1113	Congenital and neonatal infections <i>Cheryl J. Jones, David Isaacs</i>	1199
Congenital disorders of glycosylation <i>K. Michael Gibson, Greg M. Enns</i>	1117	Hospital infection control <i>Alison M. Kesson</i>	1203
Disorders of neurotransmitter metabolism <i>K. Michael Gibson, Philip L. Pearl</i>	1119	Bacterial infections.....	1204
Disorders of purine metabolism <i>K. Michael Gibson, Neil R. M. Buist</i>	1122	The use of the bacteriology laboratory by the pediatrician <i>Alison M. Kesson</i>	1204
Disorders of pyrimidine metabolism <i>K. Michael Gibson, Neil R. M. Buist</i>	1123	Principles of antimicrobial therapy <i>Alison M. Kesson</i>	1206
Disorders of metal metabolism <i>David M. Koeller</i>	1124	Botulism <i>David Isaacs</i>	1210
Porphyrias <i>David M. Koeller</i>	1127	Brucellosis; undulant fever <i>Philip D. Welsby</i>	1211
Disorders of bilirubin <i>David M. Koeller</i>	1128	Cholera <i>Stephen M. Graham</i>	1212
Hereditary disorders of vitamin metabolism <i>Neil R. M. Buist</i>	1129	Diphtheria <i>Bridget A. Wills</i>	1213
Miscellaneous inborn errors of metabolism <i>Neil R. M. Buist</i>	1130	<i>Escherichia coli</i> <i>C. Anthony Hart</i>	1216
27 Immunodeficiency <i>Andrew J. Cant, E. Graham Davies, Catherine Cale, Andrew R. Gemmery</i>	1139	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> <i>Paul T. Heath and E. Richard Moxon</i>	1218
Introduction.....	1140	Leprosy <i>Diana N. J. Lockwood</i>	1220
The immune system.....	1140	Leptospirosis <i>Philip D. Welsby</i>	1223
Innate and adaptive immunity.....	1140	Lyme disease <i>Philip D. Welsby</i>	1224
Innate immune mechanisms.....	1140	Meningococemia <i>Nigel J. Klein</i>	1226
Adaptive immune mechanisms.....	1142	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> <i>J. Brian S. Coulter</i>	1227
The development of the immune system.....	1146	Mycobacteria – environmental <i>J. Brian S. Coulter</i>	1239
Immunodeficiency disorders: general principles.....	1148	Pertussis <i>Craig Mellis</i>	1241
Diagnosis and investigation of immunodeficiency.....	1148	<i>Pneumococcus</i> <i>Janice Main</i>	1243
Disorders of cell-mediated immunity: combined immunodeficiencies.....	1154	<i>Pseudomonas</i> <i>John R. W. Govan</i>	1244
MHC antigen deficiency.....	1157	Relapsing fever <i>Amha Mekasha</i>	1245
Combined immunodeficiency forming part of other syndromes.....	1157	Salmonellosis <i>Stephen M. Graham</i>	1246
Disorders of immune regulation.....	1161	<i>Shigella</i> (bacillary dysentery) <i>Karen L. Kotloff</i>	1249
Defects of antibody production.....	1162	<i>Staphylococcus</i> <i>Janice Main</i>	1251
Disorders of phagocytic cells.....	1165	<i>Streptococcus</i> and <i>Enterococcus</i> <i>Janice Main</i>	1252
Complement disorders.....	1167	Tetanus <i>Jeremy Farrar</i>	1254
Secondary immunodeficiency.....	1169	Tularemia <i>Cheryl Jones</i>	1255
Vaccination of the child with a potentially impaired immune response.....	1170	Yersiniosis and plague <i>David Lalloo</i>	1256
Hyposplenism.....	1171	Infections due to viruses and allied organisms <i>David Isaacs, Cheryl Jones</i>	1258
Treatment of immunodeficiency.....	1171	Use of the virology laboratory by the clinician <i>Alison M. Kesson</i>	1258
Replacement immunoglobulin therapy.....	1172	HIV infection <i>Caroline Foster, Diana Gibb</i>	1259
Replacement therapy for combined deficiencies.....	1172	Exanthemata <i>Cheryl Jones, David Isaacs</i>	1274
28 Infections <i>Edited by David Isaacs, Kim Mulholland</i>	1177	Herpesviruses <i>Cheryl Jones, David Isaacs</i>	1279
Mortality and morbidity in infectious disease <i>Angus Nicoll</i>	1178	Viral and allied infections of the respiratory tract <i>Cheryl Jones, David Isaacs</i>	1286
Clinical problems.....	1188	Viral infections of the CNS <i>Cheryl Jones, David Isaacs</i>	1292
The child with fever <i>Peter T. Rudd</i>	1188	Viruses and the gastrointestinal tract <i>Cheryl Jones, David Isaacs</i>	1297
The child with a rash <i>Peter T. Rudd</i>	1189	Ocular diseases caused by viruses and allied organisms <i>Cheryl Jones, David Isaacs</i>	1298
		Viral infection of the liver <i>Cheryl Jones, David Isaacs</i>	1299
		Miscellaneous viral infections <i>Cheryl Jones, David Isaacs</i>	1301
		Rickettsial infections <i>Cheryl Jones, David Isaacs</i>	1303
		Protozoal infections.....	1306

Amebic infections <i>J. Brian S. Coulter</i>	1306	Lacrimal system	1496
Cryptosporidiosis <i>C. Anthony Hart</i>	1308	Congenital abnormalities of eye development	1496
Giardiasis <i>C. Anthony Hart</i>	1310	Conjunctivitis.....	1496
Leishmaniasis <i>David Lalloo</i>	1312	Corneal disease.....	1497
Malaria <i>Malcolm E. Molyneux</i>	1315	Uveitis.....	1497
Toxoplasmosis <i>Cheryl A. Jones</i>	1323	Cataract.....	1498
Trypanosomiasis <i>David Lalloo</i>	1324	Lens subluxation.....	1498
Fungal infections <i>C. Anthony Hart</i>	1328	Glaucoma.....	1498
Helminth infection <i>John M. Goldsmid,</i> <i>Maurice A. Kibel, Alan E. Mills</i>	1337	Retinal diseases.....	1499
Flies, fleas, mites and lice <i>John M. Goldsmid,</i> <i>Maurice A. Kibel, Alan E. Mills</i>	1361	Diseases of the optic nerve.....	1501
Diseases transmitted by animals <i>John M. Goldsmid,</i> <i>Maurice A. Kibel, Alan E. Mills</i>	1365	The eye in relation to medical pediatrics and clinical genetics.....	1501
29 Disorders of bones, joints and connective tissues		Ocular trauma	1503
<i>Joyce Davidson, Andrew Gavin Cleary, Colin Bruce</i> ..	1385	Management of the visually impaired child and their family.....	1505
Assessment of the musculoskeletal system.....	1386	32 Disorders of the ear, nose and throat	
Congenital and developmental problems.....	1387	<i>Alastair I.G. Kerr</i>	1509
Inherited disorders of bones and joints.....	1397	The ear.....	1509
Infection in bones and joints.....	1401	Congenital abnormalities.....	1509
Juvenile idiopathic arthritis.....	1406	Trauma and injuries.....	1509
Other arthropathies in childhood.....	1415	Infections of the ears.....	1510
Common orthopedic problems in childhood.....	1415	Referred otalgia.....	1510
Vasculitis.....	1423	Deafness.....	1511
Other autoimmune rheumatic disorders.....	1427	The nose, sinuses and throat.....	1512
Chronic pain syndromes.....	1435	The nose.....	1512
Back problems in childhood and adolescence.....	1437	Nasal septal deviation	1514
Osteoporosis.....	1438	Diseases of the paranasal sinuses.....	1514
Overuse and sport-related problems in children.....	1440	Nasal polyps.....	1514
30 Disorders of the skin <i>Nigel P. Burrows</i>.....	1447	Choanal atresia.....	1514
Introduction.....	1447	Diseases of the nasopharynx.....	1514
Nevi and other developmental defects.....	1448	Diseases of the pharynx.....	1515
Hereditary diseases.....	1452	Disorders of phonation.....	1516
Skin diseases of the neonate.....	1459	33 Allergic disorders <i>Peter D. Arkwright,</i>	
Infections and infestations of the skin.....	1461	<i>Timothy J. David</i>	1519
Urticaria and erythemas.....	1468	Definitions and explanation of terms	1519
Vesicobullous disorders.....	1470	Immune mechanisms and timing of the allergic response.....	1519
Vasculitis.....	1470	Hygiene hypothesis.....	1520
Eczema, dermatitis and psoriasis.....	1471	Genetics of allergy and allergic disorders.....	1520
Connective tissue diseases.....	1474	Clinical spectrum of disease.....	1521
Idiopathic photosensitivity eruptions.....	1475	Skin.....	1521
Disorders of hypopigmentation	1476	Respiratory tract.....	1523
Disorders of hair loss.....	1476	Important allergens in children	1525
The histiocytoses.....	1477	Anaphylaxis.....	1532
31 Disorders of the eye <i>Brian W. Fleck,</i>		Diagnosis of allergy – taking a history.....	1532
<i>Alan O. Mulvihill</i>	1481	Diagnostic testing for allergy.....	1533
Normal visual development	1481	Drug treatment of anaphylaxis and acute allergies ...	1535
Clinical assessment.....	1482	Hyposensitization.....	1536
Specialized methods of examination.....	1487	Novel treatment approaches	1537
Refractive errors and amblyopia.....	1488	Prevention of atopic disease.....	1538
Strabismus.....	1490	34 Psychiatric disorders in childhood <i>Peter Hoare</i>	1541
Pupil abnormalities.....	1491	Introduction.....	1541
Nystagmus.....	1491	Normal and abnormal psychological development....	1542
The apparently blind infant	1492	Developmental theories.....	1542
Acquired visual loss in children	1493	Developmental psychopathology.....	1545
Childhood visual loss with no abnormality on ophthalmic examination	1494	Personality development.....	1545
Diseases of orbital and ocular tissues.....	1495	General features of psychiatric disturbance.....	1546
Eyelid abnormalities.....	1495	Assessment procedures.....	1547
		Psychological assessment.....	1548

Disorders in preschool children	1548	Burn care	1591
Psychiatric aspects of child abuse	1549	Complications of burns	1591
Pervasive developmental disorders.....	1550	Management of the unstable child with underlying pathology.....	1591
Emotional disorders.....	1552	Conclusion.....	1593
Mood disorders.....	1554	Pediatric intensive care	1593
Disorders of elimination.....	1555	Introduction.....	1593
Miscellaneous disorders.....	1556	Postresuscitation stabilization and transfer.....	1594
Treatment methods.....	1558	Respiratory system.....	1595
Psychiatric disorders in adolescence.....	1560	Cardiovascular system.....	1597
Adolescent psychiatric syndromes.....	1561	Central nervous system	1598
Special topics	1565	Fluids and renal replacement therapy.....	1599
Psychiatric aspects of learning disability in childhood.....	1567	Host defence.....	1599
35 Adolescent medicine <i>Russell Viner</i>.....	1571	A combined organ system approach to critical illness.....	1600
What is adolescence?.....	1571	37 Surgical pediatrics <i>Gordon A. MacKinlay</i>.....	1603
Why is a special medical approach needed for adolescents?	1571	Neonatal surgery.....	1603
Adolescent development.....	1572	Surgery of the infant and child	1615
Resilience and risk in adolescent health	1575	Surgical aspects of the genitourinary tract.....	1620
The management of ill-health in adolescence.....	1575	Congenital vascular malformations.....	1625
Health promotion for young people.....	1578	Cleft lip and palate	1626
Conclusions	1578	Burns.....	1626
36 Emergency care <i>Thomas F. Beattie, Gale A. Pearson</i>.....	1581	38 Pain and palliative care <i>Richard F. Howard, Finella Craig</i>.....	1629
Pediatric injury and emergency care.....	1582	Introduction.....	1629
A pediatric emergency medical service (PEMS).....	1582	Assessment	1629
The home setting.....	1582	Self-assessment.....	1630
Data analysis and problem identification	1583	Behavioral and multidimensional assessment.....	1630
Devising a strategy	1583	Physiological responses.....	1631
Implementing a strategy.....	1583	Clinical management of pain.....	1631
Re-audit.....	1583	Management of neonatal pain.....	1636
Community education	1583	Management of pain in the ICU	1636
Community care.....	1583	Chronic pain.....	1637
Prehospital care.....	1583	Palliative care.....	1637
The emergency department services.....	1584	Symptom management.....	1639
Approach to the management of the severely ill or injured child in the emergency department.....	1585	Anemia and bleeding.....	1641
Stopping resuscitation.....	1587	Impaired appetite and poor feeding	1641
Approach to the severely injured child	1587	Psychosocial and spiritual support.....	1641
Sciwora	1587	Conclusion.....	1641
Breathing	1588		
Circulation.....	1588	Section 4	
Disability	1588	APPENDICES AND INDEX	
Secondary survey.....	1588	Appendix <i>Anne Green, Rachel Webster, I. A. Auchterlonie, Anita MacDonald</i>	1645
Head injury.....	1588	Reference ranges for biochemical laboratory tests.....	1645
Thoracoabdominal injuries.....	1589	Introduction.....	1645
Moderate chest injury.....	1589	Laboratory Reference Values.....	1646
Abdominal injury.....	1589	Nutrients and Formula Feeds.....	1646
Seat belt injury.....	1589	Index.....	1683
Orthopedic injury.....	1589		

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Contributors

Ishaq Abu-Arafeh, MBBS, MD, MRCP, FRCPCH
Consultant in Paediatrics and Paediatric
Neurology, Stirling Royal Infirmary, Stirling;
Honorary Consultant Paediatrician, Fraser of
Allander Neurosciences Unit, Royal Hospital
for Sick Children, Glasgow, UK

N. Archer, MA FRCP FRCPCH DCH
Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, Oxford
Children's Hospital, Oxford; Honorary
Clinical Senior Lecturer, University of
Oxford, Oxford, UK

Peter D. Arkwright, FRCPCH DPH
Lecturer in Child Health, Department of
Child Health, University of Manchester,
Manchester, UK

Ian A. Auchterlonie, MB ChB FRCPCH FRCP
Honorary Consultant Paediatrician (Retired),
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital,
Aberdeen, UK

Alastair J. Baker, MB ChB FRCP FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Hepatologist, King's
College Hospital, London, UK

Susan V. Beath, BSc MB BS MRCP DTM&H FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Hepatologist, The
Liver Unit, Birmingham Childrens Hospital,
Birmingham, UK

Thomas F. Beattie, MB MSc FRCSed(A&E), FCEM,
FRCPE, FFSEM, DCH
Consultant in Emergency Medicine, Royal
Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh;
Honorary Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics,
University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

Julie-Clare Becher, MB ChB MRCPC MD
Consultant Neonatologist, Simpson Centre
for Reproductive Health, Royal Infirmary of
Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

W. Michael Bisset, BSc MB ChB DCH MSc MD
FRCPE FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Gastroenterologist,
Department of Medical Paediatrics, Royal
Aberdeen Children's Hospital, Aberdeen, UK

Peter S. Blair, PhD
Medical Statistician, Senior Research Fellow,
University of Bristol, Division of Child Health,
Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

Paula H.B. Bolton-Maggs, FRCPCH FRCP FRCPATH
Consultant Haematologist, Manchester
Comprehensive Care Haemophilia Centre,
Department of Clinical Haematology,
Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester, UK

Paul L.P. Brand, MD
Consultant Paediatrician and Director of
Postgraduate Education, Princess Amalia
Children's Clinic, Isala klinieken, Zwolle,
The Netherlands

Colin E. Bruce, MB ChB FRCS FRCS(ORTH)
Consultant Paediatric Orthopaedic
Surgeon, Alder Hey Children's Hospital,
Liverpool, UK

Helen Budge, BA BM BCh PhD MRCP FRPCH
Associate Professor of Neonatology,
University of Nottingham, Nottingham,
UK

Neil R.M. Buist, MB ChB FRCP DCH
Professor Emeritus, Departments of
Paediatrics and Medical Genetics, Oregon
Health and Science University, Portland,
Oregon, USA

Nigel Peter Burrows, MD FRCP
Consultant Dermatologist and Associate
Lecturer, Department of Dermatology,
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, UK

Andrew Bush, MD FRCP FRCPCH
Professor of Paediatric Respiriology, Imperial
College, London; Honorary Consultant
Paediatric Chest Physician, Royal Brompton
Hospital, London, UK

Gary Butler, MB BS MD FRCPCH
Professor of Paediatrics, Institute of Health
Sciences, University of Reading and
Department of Paediatrics, Royal Berkshire
Hospital, Reading, UK

Catherine M. Cale, MB ChB PhD MRCP MRCPC
MRCPath
Consultant in Paediatric Immunology
and Immunopathology, Department of
Immunology, Great Ormond Street Hospital,
London, UK

Harry Campbell, MD FRCP FFPH FRSE
Professor of Genetic Epidemiology and
Public Health Sciences, College of Medicine
and Vet Medicine, University of Edinburgh,
Edinburgh, UK

Andrew J. Cant, BSc MD FRCP FRCPH
Consultant in Paediatric Immunology and
Infectious Diseases, Newcastle General
Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Michael Clarke, BSc MRCP DCH FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Leeds
Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds, UK

Andrew Gavin Cleary, MB ChB BSc MSc MRCPC
Consultant Paediatric Rheumatologist, Royal
Liverpool Children's Hospital, Liverpool, UK

J. Brian S. Coulter, MD FRCP(I) FRCPCH
Honorary Clinical Lecturer in Tropical
Child Health, Liverpool School of Tropical
Medicine, Liverpool, UK

Jonathan Coultts, MB ChB FRCPCH FRCP(Glas)
Consultant Neonatal and Respiratory
Paediatrician, The Queen Mother's Hospital
and Royal Hospital for Sick Children,
Glasgow, UK

Richard Coward, MB ChB MRCPC PhD
MRC Clinician Scientist and Consultant
Paediatric Nephrologist, Bristol Royal
Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

Finella Craig, BSc MBBS MRCP
Consultant in Paediatric Palliative Care,
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children,
London, UK

Timothy J. David, MB ChB MD PhD FRCP FRCPCH
DCH
Professor of Child Health and Paediatrics,
Honorary Consultant Paediatrician, The
University of Manchester, Manchester, UK

Joyce E. Davidson, BSc MBChB MRCP (UK) FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Rheumatologist, Royal
Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, and
Royal Hospital for Sick Children,
Edinburgh, UK

E. Graham Davies, MB BChir MA FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Immunologist, Great
Ormond Street Hospital, London, UK

Jan Dudley, BM MRCP(UK) FRCPCH PhD
Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Bristol
Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

P. Barton Duell, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine, Division
of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Clinical
Nutrition; director, Lipid-Atherosclerosis
Laboratory and Metabolic Disorders Clinic,
Oregon Health and Science University,
Portland, Oregon

Heather Elphick, MB ChB MRCP MRCPC MD
Specialist Registrar in Respiratory
Paediatrics, Sheffield Children's Hospital,
Sheffield, UK

Nicholas D. Embleton, BSc MD FRCPCH
Consultant in Neonatal Medicine and

Honorary Lecturer in Child Health, Newcastle Neonatal Service, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Gregory M. Enns, MB ChB
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Director, Biochemical Genetics Program, Division of Medical Genetics, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA

Jeremy Farrar, FRCP DPhil OBE
Professor of Tropical Medicine Oxford University; Honorary Professor of International Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London; Director, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, The Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

Colin D. Ferrie, BSc MB ChB MD MRCP FRCPath
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Department of Paediatric Neurology, Leeds General Infirmary, Leeds, UK

Alistair R. Fielder, FRCP FRCS FRCOphth
Professor of Ophthalmology, Department of Optometry and Visual Science, City University, London, UK

Brian W. Fleck, MD FRCOph
Consultant Ophthalmologist, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Edinburgh Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, UK

Peter J. Fleming, PhD MB ChB FRCPC FRCPath
Professor of Infant Health and Developmental Physiology, University of Bristol; Consultant Paediatrician, Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

Caroline Foster, MB BS MRCP
Honorary Clinical Research Fellow, Imperial College London; SPR Paediatric HIV, St Mary's Hospital, London, UK

Yvonne Freer, RGN RM RSCN BSc PhD
Research and Practice Development Facilitator, Neonatal Intensive Care, Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

Vijeya Ganesan, MRCPCH, MD
Senior Lecturer in Paediatric Neurology, Institute of Child Health, University College London, London, UK

Anne S. Garden, FRCOG
Head of Department of Medicine and Director of the Centre for Medical Education, Lancaster University, Lancaster; Honorary Consultant in Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology, Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Liverpool; Honorary Consultant Gynaecologist, University Hospitals Morecambe Bay Trust, Morecambe, UK

Andrew R. Gennery, MD MRCP MRCPCH
DCH DipMedSci
Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Immunology, BMT Institute of

Cellular Medicine, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Children's Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, Newcastle General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Diana Gibb, MD FRCPC MS
Professor of Paediatric Epidemiology, MRC Clinical Trials Unit, University College London, London, UK

K. Michael Gibson, PhD, FACMG
Professor, Pediatrics, Pathology and Human Genetics, Division of Medical Genetics, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Barbara Golden, BSc MB BCh BAO MD FRCPI
FRCPC DCH RNutr
Associate Dean (Medicine), Clinical Senior Lecturer, Honorary Consultant International Child Health, Child Health Institute, School of Medicine, University of Aberdeen, Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, Aberdeen, UK

John M. Goldsmid, BSc MSc PhD FRCPath FACTM
FASM CBiol FIBiol FAIBiol HonFRCPA HonFACTM
Emeritus Professor, Discipline of Pathology, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

John R.W. Govan, BSc PhD DSc
Professor of Microbial Pathogenicity, Centre for Infectious Diseases, University of Edinburgh Medical School, Edinburgh, UK

Stephen M. Graham, FRACP
Paediatric Research Fellow and Deputy Director Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme, University of Malawi College of Medicine, Blantyre, Malawi; Senior Clinical Lecturer, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool, UK

Anne Green, BSc MSc PhD FRCPath FRCS FIBiol
FRCPC
Consultant Clinical Scientist, Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust, Birmingham, UK

Marcus Grompe, MD
Director, Oregon Stem Cell Center; Professor, Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics, Oregon and Health Science University, Portland, Oregon, USA

Henry L. Halliday, FRCPE FRCP FRCPC
Chair of Child Health and Welfare Research Group, Department of Child Health, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

Christina Halsey, BM BCh BA MRCP MRCPATH
Leukaemia Research Fund Clinical Research Fellow, Faculty of Medicine, Glasgow University, Glasgow, UK

Cary O. Harding, MD
Assistant Professor, Molecular and Medical Genetics; Director of the Biochemical Genetics Clinical Laboratory, Oregon Health

and Science University, Portland, Oregon, USA

C. Anthony Hart, BSc MB BS PhD FRCPC FRCPath
Professor, Division of Medical Microbiology, School of Infection and Host Defence, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

Paul T. Heath, MB BS FRACP FRCPC
Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant, Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Division of Child Health, St George's University of London, London, UK

Peter J. Helms, MB BS PhD FRCP(Edin) FRCPC
Professor of Child Health, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK

John Henderson, MD FRCP FRCPC FRCPEd
Reader in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine, University of Bristol and Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

Tom Hilliard, MD FRCPC
Consultant Respiratory Paediatrician, Bristol Children's Hospital, Bristol, UK

Peter Hoare, DM FRCPsych
Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburgh; Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, UK

Richard F. Howard, BSc MBChB FRCA
Consultant in Anaesthesia and Pain Management, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, UK

Imelda Hughes, FRCPC
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Department of Paediatric Neurology, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Manchester, UK

Robert Hume, BSc MB ChB PhD FRCPEdin FRCPC
Professor of Developmental Medicine, Maternal and Child Health Sciences, University of Dundee, Dundee, UK

Carol Inward, MBBCh MD FRCPC
Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

David Isaacs, MB BChir MD FRACP FRCPC
Senior Staff Specialist at Children's Hospital at Westmead; Clinical Professor in Paediatric Infectious Diseases, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Omar Ismayl, MD MSc MRCPCH
Consultant Neurologist, Damascus University Children's Hospital, Mezza, Damascus, Syria

Huw R. Jenkins, MA MD FRCP FRCPC
Consultant Paediatric Gastroenterologist, Department of Child Health, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Wales, UK

Cheryl A. Jones, MB BS PhD FRACP
Associate Professor, and Sub Dean Postgraduate Studies, Discipline of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Sydney; Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Christopher J.H. Kelnar, MA MD FRCP FRCPCH
Professor of Paediatric Endocrinology,
Section of Child Life and Health, Division of
Reproductive and Developmental Sciences,
University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

Alison M. Kemp, MB BCH DCH MRCP
FRCPCH FRCP(Edin)

Reader in Child Health, Department of Child
Health, Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales

Alastair I.G. Kerr, MBChB FRCS(Edin & Glas)
Consultant Otolaryngologist, Ear, Nose and
Throat Department, Royal Infirmary for Sick
Children, Edinburgh, UK

Alison M. Kesson, MB BS PhD FRACP FRCPA
Virologist, Microbiologist and Paediatric
Infectious Disease Physician, The Children's
Hospital, Westmead, Sydney New South
Wales; Conjoint Associate Professor,
Paediatrics and Child Health, University of
Sydney, Sydney New South Wales, Australia

Maurice A. Kibel, FRCP(Edin) DCH(Lond).
Emeritus Professor of Child Health, School
of Child and Adolescent Health, University of
Cape Town, South Africa

Denise Kitchiner, MD FRCP FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist,
Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust,
Liverpool, UK

Nigel J. Klein, BSc MB BS MRCP PhD FRCPCH
Professor of Infection and Immunity,
University College London; Head, Infectious
Diseases and Microbiology Unit, Institute of
Child Health; Head, Department of Infection,
University College London; Consultant in
Infectious Diseases and Microbiology,
Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust,
London, UK

David M. Koeller, MD
Associate Professor, Pediatrics and Molecular
and Medical Genetics; Chief, Division
of Metabolism, Department of Pediatrics,
Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Oregon
Health and Science University, Portland,
Oregon, USA

Sailesh Kotecha, MA FRCPCH PhD
Professor of Child Health, Department of
Child Health, Wales College of Medicine,
Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales, UK

Karen Kotloff, MD
Professor, Pediatrics and Medicine, Center
for Vaccine Development, University of
Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore,
Maryland, USA

Ian A. Laing, MA MD FRCPE FRCPCH
Consultant Neonatologist, Simpson Centre
for Reproductive Health, Royal Infirmary of
Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

David G. Lalloo, MB BS MD FRCP
Reader In Tropical Medicine, Liverpool
School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool, UK

Alison Leaf, BSc MB ChB MD MRCP FRCPCH
Consultant Neonatologist, Southmead
Hospital, Bristol, UK

Malcolm I. Levene, MD FRCPCH FMedSc
Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health,
University of Leeds, Leeds General Infirmary,
Leeds, UK

Leesa M. Linck, MD MPH
Consultant Paediatrician,
The Connty Clinic, Winthrop,
Washington State, USA.

John H. Livingston, MB ChB FRCP FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist,
Department of Paediatric Neurology, Leeds
General Infirmary, Leeds, UK

Stuart Logan, MB ChB MSc(Epidemiology)
MSc(Econ) MRCP FRCPCH
Professor of Paediatric Epidemiology;
Director, Institute of Health and Social
Care Research, Peninsula Medical School,
St Luke's Campus, Exeter, UK

Diana N.J. Lockwood, BSc MD FRCP
Consultant Physician and Leprologist,
Hospital for Tropical Diseases, London, UK

Andrew J. Lyon, MA MB FRCP FRCPCH
Consultant Neonatologist, Simpson Centre
for Reproductive Health, Royal Infirmary of
Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

Ronan Lyons, MD FFPH FFPHM MRH DCH
Professor of Public Health, Centre for Health
Information, Research and Evaluation,
School of Medicine, Swansea University,
Swansea, UK

Anita Macdonald, PhD BSc SRD
Consultant Dietician in Inherited Metabolic
Disorders, Birmingham Children's Hospital,
Birmingham, UK, Head of Dietetics,
Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust,
Birmingham, UK

Mary McGraw, FRCP FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist,
Bristol Royal Hospital for Children,
Bristol, UK

Keiran McHugh, FRCP FRCPCH DCH
Consultant Paediatric Radiologist, Great
Ormond Street Hospital for Children,
London, UK

Neil McIntosh, DSc(Med)
Professor of Child Life and Health,
Department of Child Life and Health,
University of Edinburgh; Honorary
Consultant Paediatrician, Lothian University
Hospitals NHS Trust, Edinburgh, UK

G.A. Mackinlay, MB BS LRCP FRCSed
FRCS(Eng) FRCPCH
Senior Lecturer, Department of Clinical
Surgery, University of Edinburgh; Consultant
Paediatric Surgeon, Department of Paediatric
Surgery, Royal Hospital for Sick Children,
Edinburgh, UK

Ian McKinley, OBE BSc MB ChB DCH FRCP FRCPCH
Senior Lecturer in Child Health, McKay-
Gordon Centre, Royal Manchester Children's
Hospital, Manchester, UK

Sheila A.M. McLean, LLB MLitt PhD LLD FRSE
FRCGP FMedSci FRCP(Edin) FRSA
International Bar Association Professor of
Law and Ethics in Medicine, University of
Glasgow, Glasgow, UK

Sabine Maguire, MB BCh BAO MRCP FRCP FRCPCH
Senior Lecturer in Child Health, Cardiff
University, Department of Child Health,
Cardiff, UK

Janice Main, FRCP(Edin) FRCP(Lond)
Reader and Consultant Physician in
Infectious diseases and General Medicine,
Department of Medicine, Imperial College,
St Mary's Hospital, London, UK

Guy Makin, BA BM BCh PhD MRCP FRCPCH
Senior Lecturer in Paediatric Oncology,
University of Manchester; Honorary
Consultant Paediatric Oncologist,
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital,
Manchester, UK

Timothy Martland, MB ChB MRCP MRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist,
Department of Paediatric Neurology,
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital,
Manchester, UK

Amha Mekasha, MD MSc
Associate Professor of Paediatrics and Child
Health, Department of Paediatrics and
Child Health, Addis Ababa University,
Adis Ababa, Ethiopia

Craig Mellis, MB BS MPH MD FRACP
Head of School, Associate Dean, Central
Clinic School, Faculty of Medicine, The
University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Stefan Meyer, MD PhD MRCPCH
CRUK Clinician Scientist and Consultant
Paediatric Oncologist, Univeristy of
Manchester, Royal Manchester Children's
Hospital and Young Oncology Unit, Christie
Hospital, Manchester, UK, Stefan Meyer MD
PhD MRCPCH

Alan E. Mills, MA MB DCP DPath FRCPA.
FFPathRCPI FACTM
Consultant Pathologist, Dorevitch Pathology,
Bendigo, Victoria, Australia

Elizabeth Molyneux, OBE FRCP FRCPCH FEM
Professor and Head of Department of
Paediatrics, College of Medicine, Blantyre,
Malawi, C Africa.

Malcolm E. Molyneux, MD FRCP FMedSci
Director, Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust
Clinical Research Programme, College of
Medicine, University of Malawi, Malawi;
Professor of Tropical Medicine, School of
Tropical Medicine, University of Liverpool,
Liverpool, UK

Kim Mulholland, MD FRACP

Professor of Child Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK

Alan O. Mulvihill, FRCSI FRCSed

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion and Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, UK

Richard W. Newton, MD FRCPCH FRCP

Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Manchester, UK

Angus Nicoll, CBE FFFHM FRCP FRCPCH

Director, Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, Centre for Infection, Health Protection Agency, London, UK

James Y. Paton, MD, FRCPCH FRCPSCG

Reader in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine, Division of Developmental Medicine, University of Glasgow, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, UK

Michael A. Patton, MA MSc MBChB FRCPCH

Professor of Medical Genetics and Consultant Medical Geneticist, Department of Medical Genetics, St George's Hospital Medical School, London, UK

Philip L. Pearl, MD

Associate Professor of Paediatrics and Neurology, Department of Neurology, Children's National Medical Center, The George Washington University School of Medicine, Washington DC, USA

Gale A. Pearson, MB BS MRCP FRCPCH

Consultant in Paediatric Intensive Care, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Birmingham, UK

Stavros Petrou, BSc MPhil PhD

MRC Senior Non-Clinical Research Fellow, National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

Ian J. Ramage, FRCPCH

Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, UK

John J. Reilly, BSc PhD

Professor of Paediatric Energy Metabolism, University Division of Developmental Medicine, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, UK

J.M. Rennie, MD FRCP FRCPCH DCH

Consultant and Senior Lecturer in Neonatal Medicine, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Obstetric Hospital, University College London Hospitals, London

Sam Richmond, MB BS FRCP FRCPCH

Consultant Neonatologist, Sunderland Royal Hospital, Sunderland, UK

Irene A.G. Roberts, MD FRCP FRCPATH FRCPCH

DRCOG
Professor of Paediatric Haematology and Consultant Paediatric Haematologist, Hammersmith Hospital and St Mary's Hospitals, Imperial College, London, UK

Peter T. Rudd, MD FRCPCH

Consultant Paediatrician, Royal United Hospital, Bath, UK

S.C. Robson, MD MRCOG

Professor of Fetal Medicine, School of Surgical and Reproductive Sciences, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Jean-Baptiste Roulet, PhD

Associate Professor (Research), Division of Metabolism, Department of Paediatrics, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon, USA; Adjunct Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

George Rylance, MB FRCPCH

Consultant in Paediatrics, Department of Child Health, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Moin A. Saleem, MB BS FRCP PhD

Reader and Honorary Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Bristol Children's Hospital, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

Alison Salt, MB BS MSc FRACP FRCPCH

Consultant Developmental Paediatrician, Neurodisability Service, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust and Institute of Child Health, London, UK

Jenefer Sargent, MA MB BCh MSc MRCPCH

Consultant Developmental Paediatrician, Neurodisability Service, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust, London, UK

Ayad Shafiq, FRCPH MRCPPaed DCH BM BCh

Consultant Ophthalmologist, Royal Victoria Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Jonathan R. Skinner, MB ChB FRCPCH FRACP MD

Paediatric Cardiologist, Green Lane Paediatric and Cardiac Services, Starship Children's Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand

Alan Smyth, MA MB BS MRCP MD FRCPCH

Reader in Child Health, University of Nottingham; Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Nottingham, UK

Rosalind L. Smyth, MA MB BS MD FRCPCH

Brough Professor of Paediatric Medicine, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

Robert D. Steiner, MD

Professor, Pediatrics and Molecular and Medical Genetics; Vice Chair for Research, Department of Pediatrics, Doernbecher

Children's Hospital; Deputy Director, Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon, USA

Ben Stenson, MD FRCPCH FRCP

Consultant Neonatologist, Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

Terence Stephenson, DM FRCP FRCPCH

Professor of Child Health; Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Medical School, University of Nottingham, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, UK

Stephen Stick, PhD MB BChir MRCP FRACP

Associate Professor, Department of Respiratory Medicine, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, University of Western Australia, Australia

Stephen Sturgiss, MD MRCOG

Consultant in Obstetrics and Fetal Medicine, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

David Sweet, MD FRCPCH

Consultant Neonatologist, Royal Maternity Hospital, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

Angela E. Thomas, MB BS PhD FRCP FRCPATH

FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Haematologist, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, UK

James Tooley, MB BS MRCPCH

Consultant in Neonatal Medicine, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, St Michael's Hospital, Bristol, UK

E. Jane Tizard, MB BS, FRCP FRCPCH

Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

Russell Viner, MB BS FRCPCH FRACP FRCP PhD

Consultant in Adolescent Medicine and Endocrinology, Department of Paediatrics, Middlesex Hospital, London, UK

Rachel Webster, BSc PhD DipRCPATH

Clinical Scientist, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Birmingham, UK

Philip D. Welsby, FRCP(Ed)

Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Infectious Disease Unit, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, UK

Johannes Wildhaber, MD PhD

Head, Division of Respiratory Medicine, University Children's Hospital, Zürich, Switzerland

Anthony F. Williams, BSc DPhil MB BS

FRCP FRCPCH
Reader in Child Nutrition, St George's, University of London, London, UK

Bridget A. Wills, BmedSci BM BS MRCP DTM&H
Clinical Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics,
University of Oxford – Wellcome Trust
Clinical Research Unit, Ho Chi Minh City,
Vietnam

David C. Wilson, MD FRCP FRCPCH
Senior Lecturer in Paediatric
Gastroenterology and Nutrition, Child Life

and Health, Department of Reproductive
and Developmental Sciences, University of
Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

Rachael Wood, BSc MB ChB DCH MFH MFPH
Clinical Academic Fellow, Department
of Public Health Sciences and Centre for
International Public Health Policy University
of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

Christopher Wren, MB ChB FRCP FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, Freeman
Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

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