

Editorial

Spring into action!

Snowdrops and daffodils are already giving way to blossoming trees and birds singing the return of the season of love...spring is back! Spring is a time of renewal, of life waking up, expressing itself, ready to grow, to mature, to shine ...

This cycle of seasons is fundamental to the natural world around us. It is also fundamental to the human species. Since time immemorial, mankind has celebrated through numerous religious festivals, traditions and customs the chance of turning the page, the opportunity to leave behind or forget the hardships and cold of winter and to welcome a new impetus, a new light, a new warmth. In this perpetual movement, we all know, as individuals, how important it is to be able to stop, to pause, simply to look at where we've come from, where we are, and where we're going... where we want to go.

This dynamic is very important in 2024. In many countries around the world, in Europe and particularly in Belgium, we will be called upon to reflect on our plans for society, our models of organization and democracy. We are going to be invited to choose on those who will represent us in defining and deciding the directions of our collective life. In 2024, some 4.1 billion people - half the world's population - will have the opportunity to vote in multiple ballots organized in 68 countries around the globe. This is unprecedented since universal suffrage was instituted in France in 1792! For the first time, this choice will also involve our oldest patients. Young people over the age of 16 will have the right to elect their representatives to the European Parliament. In a continent facing major challenges, it is legitimate to share this responsibility with the adults of tomorrow. It will be essential to inform them, to listen to them and not let them down!

As a scientific society and as a pediatric healthcare community, we have also taken the opportunity to look back and reflect on our past and our future. According to an official announcement in *Paris médical: la semaine du clinicien* 1923; 48: 160, the Belgian Society of Paediatrics (BVK/SBP) was founded on Sunday 14th January 1923. The first president was Prof Péchère, rue des Drapiers, Brussels. The annual membership fee was "25 francs". For more than 100 years, the BVK/SBP was managed by many eminent persons with different personalities and has weathered many storms. The BVK/SBP was and still is the only national pediatric scientific society in Belgium. One of its main objectives is to organize, coordinate, support, stimulate scientific and educative activities and initiatives for all Belgian pediatricians and fellows in pediatrics, with the focus on general pediatrics as well as on pediatric subspecialties and in close collaboration with other pediatric-related medical disciplines, nurses, paramedics and all care givers involved in child and adolescent care.

We are very pleased and grateful that 4 distinguished *éminences grises*, who partially shaped the BVK/SBP over the past years, were prepared to share with us their thoughts and reflexions on our Belgian Society of Paediatrics and his activities. In the first issue of the 2024 volume, Prof Willem Proesmans, KULeuven will shed light on one of the flagships of the BVK/SBP: The Belgian Journal of Paediatrics.

A new section is also launched within this current issue. In the last months, the Belgian Academy of Paediatrics (BAOP), in collaboration with other professionals, paediatrics patients and patient representatives, took the initiative to develop a "Care for the Child" -plan. It offers a comprehensive framework to realize the principle of not leaving child behind. The Plan was explained during the 52nd Congress of the Belgian Society of Paediatrics in Antwerp and is available on the website of the BAOP (www.baop.be). We hope that this plan will put our children and patients at the center of our future decision-makers' attention. Through the section "Child Advocacy", the Belgian Journal of Paediatrics is willing to join this initiative and to give children a voice in healthcare. Prof Ann De Guchteneare, who coordinated the Masterplan development, will introduce the 10 recommendations that were presented on March 14th, 2024.

In addition to these, we are proud to publish several case reports and original studies. The "Made in Belgium" section continues to reflect the quality of the scientific work carried out by Belgian paediatric teams. Levi Hoste from Ghent University summarizes his exploration of the immune horizon through the study of systemic inflammatory diseases in the era of SARS-CoV-2. This PhD was presented on November 16th, 2023. CamTu Nguyen explains her collaborative work between the Free University of Brussels and the City Children's Hospital of Ho Chi Minh City. She studied the burden of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in children undergoing upper gastrointestinal endoscopy in Vietnam. This thesis was presented in Brussels on November 28th, 2024.

On behalf of the entire editorial board, we wish you a pleasant reading and a rejuvenating spring!

Christophe Chantrain and Marc Raes, editors-in-chief

**Uw vragen of commentaar
Vos questions ou commentaires**



BELGISCHE VERENIGING
VOOR KINDERGENEESKUNDE
SOCIÉTÉ BELGE DE PÉDIATRIE

**Comité de rédaction - Redactieraad
M. Raes - C. Chantrain**

Gasthuisberg - Kindergeneeskunde

Herestraat 49 - 3000 Leuven

E-mail BJ-Ped@hotmail.com