

## Editorial

### An apple a day keeps the doctor away !

September 2022... back to school and to work.. Fall and winter are knocking on our doors...

September 2022 also sees a page of history turn. Through our editorial and our cover, we want to pay tribute with a touch of humor, of respect and of trust above all, to a personality and a reign that has seen many pages of history written, including that of medicine. Elizabeth II passed away on September 8, 2022 at the age of 96 after being the Queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms for more than 70 years. She was born (April 21, 1926) almost at the same time as our Belgian Pediatric Society (January 14, 1923). Few years later, the British Alexander Fleming discovered accidentally penicillin (1928). In 1952, the year of Elizabeth II's accession to the throne, the first kidney transplant from a living donor took place. Immunology was still in its infancy and the patient died 21 days later. It was not until 1954 that the first successful kidney transplant was performed on monozygotic twins. The first bone marrow transplant was performed in 1957, and the first liver transplant took place in 1963. In 1953, Queen Elizabeth II was officially crowned. The same year, Watson and Crick described the double helix structure of DNA. In the early 1980s, Her Majesty celebrated the wedding of her children and became a grandmother. This time also corresponds to the introduction of surfactant in clinical practice. This transformed the vital prognosis and morbidity of newborn respiratory distress associated to prematurity. Let's bet that, with a birth weight of 3.250kg and 2.8kg respectively, Princes William and Harry did not need it. More recently in December 2020, a few days before the beginning of the vaccination campaign in Belgium and while Europe and particularly the United Kingdom were facing a peak of contaminations by the coronavirus, Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip, were among the first to be vaccinated. Usually quite discreet about her state of health, the monarch decided to make this information public to avoid any possible rumors.

The exceptional length of Elizabeth II's reign, the place that King Charles II will now take, and the massive tribute paid by the British people also put into perspective the questions of continuity and change. In our medical practice, we have all known, or perhaps still know, personalities, professors, doctors, managers who have had an impact on their unit through their length of tenure, their charisma, or their vision. The importance of these people in the development of a department is indisputable. The questions that arise are rather the transition, the evolution during or afterwards. How to leave a place for other points of view, other sensibilities? These remarks also apply to ideas. Certain theories, practices or habits may change or evolve. How to position yourself? What is preferable? a break? a slower and progressive transition? So many questions that are possibly echoed in our pediatric community, the one that accompanies adolescents in their passage from childhood to adulthood...

The cover of this September issue, once again illustrated by Serge Ernst, is also the opportunity to confirm another British secret: the positive role of fruits and vegetables in children's diets. This is discussed more objectively discussed in our Cochrane Corner section.

In addition, this issue also features several clinical case reports described by young pediatricians and colleagues from all over Belgium: a neonatal acute myeloid leukemia revealed by a Blueberry Muffin syndrome, a case of fetal and neonatal ventricular arrhythmias in Long QT type 2 syndrome, a report of erythromelalgia in a young adolescent and a rare cause of liver dysfunction and malabsorption. We also publish several studies on compounded hydrocortisone preparations for children with congenital adrenal hyperplasia, prophylactic azithromycin in preschoolers with chronic respiratory symptoms, congenital long-segment tracheal stenosis, pediatric fluid resuscitation and risk of anaphylaxis in children with Ig E-mediated allergy. Our "Made in Belgium" section is also very rich with the summary of 3 thesis: Congenital cytomegalovirus infection in Flanders by Annelies Keymeulen (University of Ghent), the influence of maternal antibodies on the immune responses of term and preterm born infants by Marlolein Orije (University of Antwerp) and visuoperceptual profiling and game-based rehabilitation in children with cerebral visual impairment by Nofar Ben Itzhak (University of Leuven).

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue and on behalf of the entire editorial board, we wish you a bright and colorful fall !

Christophe Chantrain and Marc Raes, Editors-in-chief

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



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