

Theme



Editorial

It is with great pleasure that we present a “neonatal issue” to the readership of the Belgian Journal of Paediatrics. In this volume, neonatologists from all 19 Belgian NICUs bring you an update on a variety of topics within neonatology which we considered to be of relevance to paediatricians in general: hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, cytomegalovirus infections, care of the extremely low birth weight infants after NICU discharge, unexpected neurologic events on the maternity ward, pathologies and prognosis in the late preterm infant, recent neonatal life support guidelines, early onset infection, developmental care policies & parental participation in the overall care, non-invasive ventilatory support.

Each manuscript has been written by a team of neonatologists from different centres, allowing for a stimulating interaction. Our explicit request was to emphasize those messages that are of interest to the general paediatrician who cares for infants on a maternity and/or N star ward. I would like to commend all authors for being so generous with their time and knowledge. I would also like to thank the members of the Bureau of the Belgian Association of Neonatologists (BVN/GBN) for their efforts during the review process. All manuscripts have been thoroughly read and corrected by Dr Filip Cools, Dr Kris De Coen, Dr Chantal Lecart, Dr Pierre Maton, Dr Vincent Rigo, Dr Liesbeth Thewissen, Dr Inge Van Herreweghe and myself.

The importance of a close collaboration between neonatologists and paediatricians is also embedded in our new logo. This logo emphasizes our philosophy of family-centred care: parents and infant are “supported” by the strong hands of doctors and nurses, not only within a NICU environment, but also on N star and maternity wards. Family-centred care always relies on a good network and on efficient communication between NICUs and maternity wards, i.e. between neonatologists and paediatricians. Family engagement in inpatient care of small or sick newborns undoubtedly leads to better developmental outcomes, enhanced clinician and staff satisfaction, and a wiser allocation of resources. As this “neonatal issue” is aimed at the adoption of “current best practises into routine clinical care”, we therefore hope that our issue can be experienced as part of a national, collaborative quality improvement initiative within the care of newborn infants (and their parents), across all NICUs and maternity wards in Belgium.

Enjoy reading !

Dr Luc Cornette, Guest Editor
President of the BVN/GBN