

## Difference and diversity...

As autumn approaches, we hope that for each of you the summer and holidays have been synonymous with rejuvenation, joy and shared happiness.

September draw to a close with the Paralympic Games, which took place after the "Paris 2024" Olympic Games. First of all, we would like to congratulate all the athletes of the Belgian teams on their journey to Paris and, of course, on the many medals they brought home: 10 and 14 medals respectively at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We also want to dedicate this editorial and the cover of this issue to such international events.

The Paralympic Games were originally founded by a medical doctor, the German-born and British neurologist Ludwig Guttman. In 1948, he had the idea of organising competitions on the grounds of Stoke Mandeville Hospital, near London, for amputees and paraplegics who had been victims of the Second World War. He explained that these sports competitions would encourage the patients in their rehabilitation and that together they could more easily regain confidence in their abilities. Later, these events officially became the Paralympic Summer Games, the first of which was held in Rome in 1960 under the impetus of Dr Guttman and his Italian colleague Dr Antonio Maglio. In a March 2021 issue of our Belgian Journal of Paediatrics devoted to rehabilitation in children, several colleagues described the importance of sporting activities in the long-term management of various medical and surgical pathologies.

These Paralympic Games are, of course, a tribute to the courage, determination of the athletes. They are also an ode to difference and diversity. A very important message at a time and in a world where difference is too often associated with tension, violence and exclusion. At the beginning of this year, the French biologist Olivier Hamant, in a new essay entitled "*De l'incohérence, philosophie politique de la robustesse*", cited numerous examples observed in nature to describe how diversity and the development of relationships between living beings enable to overcome limits and resolve extreme situations. He explains that trees, although competing with each other in the valleys, are able to cooperate in order to grow and develop in the unfavourable conditions of mountains. This inclusion of diversity and cooperation sometimes takes a little more time and may seem a little less effective, but it allows the creation of robust ecosystems that are better able to adapt and respond. As we -including our children or our patients- head back to school, we thought it was important to be aware and to keep in mind the benefits of diversity. For our patients and their families, we wish their differences, their uniqueness, their talents and sometimes their weaknesses or vulnerabilities will be welcomed with respect and even valued. And of course, This state of mind can also be positive in our work, in our teams and even in our personal lives.

In this autumn issue we are delighted to present the results of two surveys: one about the knowledge on clinical signs of child maltreatment among childcare workers by Jacobs *et al.* and the other concerning the recognition of abusive head trauma by emergency physicians and paediatricians by Marcelis *et al.* France *et al.* describe the results of a qualitative study of the knowledge of primary schoolchildren about illness symptoms in Flanders. Nikitas and colleagues report on regional inequity in 4CMenB vaccination in Belgium. We also publish a literature review leading to a new treatment protocol on antibiotherapy post-appendectomy by Goovaerts *et al.* The consensus recommendation for paediatric intravenous maintenance fluid is explained by the Be-PIV group. The Made in Belgium section presents the Ph D thesis of Sam Geuens from KULeuven. Dr Geuens has explored the impact of corticosteroid treatment and genotype on brain morphology and their correlations with neurobehavioral outcomes in patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. In addition to these studies, several informative clinical observations are reported by our young colleagues in training.

On behalf of the editorial team, we wish you a pleasant and informative read.

**Christophe Chantrain and Marc Raes**

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



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