Editorial

Original papers and clinical observations represent the most important part of any medical journal. Based on good up-to-date science, they bring to the readers useful information on mechanism of diseases, diagnostic evaluation and treatment strategies. This is the main objective of our journal. A few years ago it was decided to introduce review papers in *Hormone Research in Paediatrics* which summarize the most recent information on basic or more clinical topics. Indeed, several sections of our journal are dedicated to post-doctoral teaching. The mini-review section is certainly a success and a point of reference.

However, despite our efforts to support our clinical practice with the best evidence-based medicine, in some situations scientific evidence is lacking, not strong enough or, worse, contradictory to guide the clinicians. In this issue we publish an 'Opinion Paper' by David Sandberg and colleagues. What is an opinion? According to Webster's, an opinion is a 'belief stronger than impression and less strong than positive knowledge'. I believe that for our readers these opinion papers are useful for their clinical practice in areas where strong evidence is lacking. This is the first opinion paper published in *Hormone Research in Paediatrics* and I hope that others will come. These articles do not represent a collective agreement, but rather the opinion of an expert or a group of experts. It would therefore be important that other experts open a dialog and discuss the opinions expressed. I would, for that reason, be happy to accept letters which express a range of different opinions. I hope that our colleagues will take this opportunity to exchange and bring their own experience on different subjects covered by this new type of publication.

This time of year also gives me the opportunity to wish our readers, all members of ESPE and SLEP, and your families a Happy New Year for both your personal and professional life.

Paul Czernichow, Editor-in-Chief