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M.H. Götz and O.B. Stur, Wien

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Preface

The understanding and evaluation of paediatric respiratory disease is coming of age. In view of the magnitude of respiratory diseases in children, specialist training must become available for paediatricians. The basis, however, for this must be the increased awareness of the general medical population of the possible relevance of physiological investigations and their applicability to the management of disease. Only when this goal has been envisaged and identified, can we expect a closer and more beneficial cooperation between the clinically orientated paediatric chest physician and the laboratory orientated physiologist. Both of these groups will need mutual stimulation and feedback.

Adult respiratory physiologists are not always entirely aware of the difficulties encountered when investigating the non-cooperative child. While most babies will accept investigations, the toddler and pre-school age groups are less likely to accept these non-invasive investigations. One of the main aims of the present volume is the establishment of standardised methods both for the newborn and the school child. Only then will comparability of results become possible. Once physiological and morphometric methods have become universally accepted, a new understanding of clinical aspects should necessarily follow.

The European Paediatric Respiratory Society, founded in 1978, is the result of the combined need of both clinicians and physiologists to talk to each other. In the course of its short life this society has shown great vitality and promises to keep going strong in the years to come. Let this be the contribution of paediatrics to future adult respiratory health!

M.H. Götz and O.B. Stur, Wien