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List of Contributors

Carlo Agostoni  
Department of Clinical Sciences and  
Community Health  
Pediatric Clinic, University of Milan  
Fondazione IRCCS Cà Granda Ospedale  
Maggiore Policlinico  
IT–20122 Milan (Italy)  
E-Mail: carlo.agostoni@unimi.it

Syed F. Ahmed  
Developmental Endocrinology Research Group  
Royal Hospital for Sick Children  
University of Glasgow  
Yokhill, Glasgow G3 8SJ (UK)  
E-Mail: faisal.ahmed@glasgow.ac.uk

Tadej Battelino  
Department of Pediatric Endocrinology,  
Diabetes and Metabolism  
UMC-University Children’s Hospital  
Bohoriceva 20  
SI–1000 Ljubljana (Slovenia)  
E-Mail: tadej.battelino@mf.uni-lj.si

Silvia Bettocchi  
Department of Clinical Sciences and  
Community Health  
Pediatric Clinic, University of Milan  
Fondazione IRCCS Cà Granda Ospedale  
Maggiore Policlinico  
IT–20122 Milan (Italy)  
E-Mail: pilla.sma@gmail.com

Zulfiqar Bhutta  
The Hospital for Sick Children  
Research Centre for Global Child Health  
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON (Canada);  
and Department of Nutritional Sciences  
Division of Women and Child Health  
Aga Khan University, Karachi (Pakistan)  
E-Mail: zulfiqar.bhutta@aku.edu

Adda Grimberg  
Endocrinology/Diabetes  
The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia  
34th Street and Civic Center Blvd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-4399 (USA)  
E-Mail: grimberg@email.chop.edu

Corina Hartman  
Institute of Gastroenterology, Nutrition and  
Liver Diseases  
Schneider Children’s Medical Center of Israel  
Clalit Health Services  
Petach Tikva (Israel);  
and Sackler Faculty of Medicine  
Tel Aviv University  
IL–39040 Tel Aviv (Israel)  
E-Mail: CorinaH@clalit.org.il

Liran Hiersch  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology,  
Lis Maternity Hospital, Tel Aviv Medical Center,  
Tel Aviv (Israel);  
and Sackler Faculty of Medicine  
Tel Aviv University  
IL–39040 Tel Aviv (Israel)  
E-Mail: lilhir@gmail.com

Berthold Koletzko  
Division of Metabolic and Nutritional Medicine  
Dr. von Hauner Children’s Hospital  
University of Munich Medical Centre  
Lindwurmstr. 4  
DE–80337 Munich (Germany)  
E-Mail: office.koletzko@med.uni-muenchen.de

Anni Larnkjær  
Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports  
University of Copenhagen  
Rolighedsvej 30  
DK–1958 Frederiksberg C (Denmark)  
E-Mail: ala@nexs.ku.dk
Melanie W. Larsson
Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports
University of Copenhagen
Rolighedsvej 30
DK–1958 Frederiksberg C (Denmark)
E-Mail: mwl@nexs.ku.dk

Kim F. Michaelsen
Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports
University of Copenhagen
Rolighedsvej 30
DK–1958 Frederiksberg C (Denmark)
E-Mail: kfm@nexs.ku.dk

Christian Mølgaard
Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports
University of Copenhagen
Rolighedsvej 30
DK–1958 Frederiksberg C (Denmark)
E-Mail: cm@nexs.ku.dk

Luis A. Moreno
GENUD (Growth, Exercise, Nutrition and Development) Research
University of Zaragoza
c/Domingo Miral s/n
ES–50009 Zaragoza (Spain)
E-Mail: lmoreno@unizar.es

Moshe Phillip
The Jesse Z. and Sara Lea Shafer Institute for Endocrinology and Diabetes
National Center for Childhood Diabetes
Schneider Children’s Medical Center of Israel
14 Kaplan Street
Pretach Tikva (Israel);
and Sackler Faculty of Medicine
Tel Aviv University, IL–39040 Tel Aviv (Israel)
E-Mail: mosheph@post.tau.ac.il

Shlomit Shalitin
The Jesse Z. and Sara Lea Shafer Institute for Endocrinology and Diabetes
National Center for Childhood Diabetes
Schneider Children’s Medical Center of Israel
14 Kaplan Street
Pretach Tikva (Israel);
and Sackler Faculty of Medicine
Tel Aviv University, IL–39040 Tel Aviv (Israel)
E-Mail: Shlomits2@clalit.org.il

Raanan Shamir
Institute of Gastroenterology, Nutrition and Liver Diseases
Schneider Children’s Medical Center of Israel
Clalit Health Services
14 Kaplan Street
Pretach Tikva (Israel);
and Sackler Faculty of Medicine
Tel Aviv University
IL–39040 Tel Aviv (Israel)
E-Mail: RaananS@clalit.org.il

Dominique Turck
Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Department of Pediatrics
Jeanne de Flandre Children’s Hospital;
and Lille University Faculty of Medicine
INSERM U995
Avenue Eugène Avinée
FR–59037 Lille cedex (France)
E-Mail: Dominique.TURCK@CHRU-LILLE.FR

Johannes B. van Goudoever
Department of Pediatrics
Emma Children’s Hospital-AMC and VU University Center
Meibergdreef 9
NL–1105 AZ Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
E-Mail: h.vangoudoever@amc.nl

Michal Yackobovitch-Gavan
The Jesse Z. and Sara Lea Shafer Institute for Endocrinology and Diabetes
National Center for Childhood Diabetes
Schneider Children’s Medical Center of Israel
14 Kaplan Street
IL–4920235 Pretach Tikva (Israel)
E-Mail: MichalY@clalit.org.il

Yariv Yoge
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Lis Maternity Hospital
Tel Aviv Medical Center
Tel Aviv (Israel);
and Sackler Faculty of Medicine
Tel Aviv University
IL–39040 Tel Aviv (Israel)
E-Mail: yarivy@tlvmc.gov.il
Preface

It is well known to the professional medical world that child growth depends on both an adequate amount and adequate quality of their nutrition. Pediatricians, including subspecialists in pediatric gastroenterology, metabolism and nutrition, and endocrinology, nutritionists and dieticians, obstetricians, and other health professionals involved in the care of children, use growth charts as diagnostic tools in their daily work with growing children and adolescents.

Even though the mechanisms of fetal and child growth and their interactions with nutrition have not yet been fully elucidated and still pose challenges to our scientific understanding, knowledge of the role of genetic, epigenetic and growth factors, hormones, and intracellular changes have increased during the last 2 years since the first *Nutrition and Growth* yearbook was published in 2014. Thus, exchanging concepts and knowledge between professionals of all the different disciplines, as well as advancing research and interdisciplinary clinical collaborations, remain very important.

The main purpose of the book is to provide an overview of peer-reviewed manuscripts published over the last 2 years (from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015) for practicing physicians and other health care professionals involved in the care of growing children. The topics and manuscripts reviewed were selected by our international editorial team of experts. We tried to select manuscripts that we believe are important and might shed some light on the mechanisms of the interaction between nutrition and growth, as well as add some insight for the readers. Each of the selected manuscripts is summarized briefly and is accompanied by editorial comments that evaluate the clinical importance of each article and discuss its application. We hope you will find the book helpful and useful.

*Berthold Koletzko*, Munich  
*Raanan Shamir*, Petach Tikva/Tel Aviv  
*Dominique Turck*, Lille  
*Moshe Phillip*, Petach Tikva/Tel Aviv