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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.

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