Editorial

This edition of *Annales Nestlé* is a significant milestone in the history of pediatric medical communications. It is the 75th year in the international series that was originally launched in 1942, following on from an exclusively French-language version that first appeared in 1935.

Although eminent exceptions do exist, few publications manage to survive in continuous form for as long as three-quarters of a century. That *Annales Nestlé* has reached this anniversary is a tribute to the editors-in-chief, editorial board members, and contributors who have given the publication purpose, direction, and authority over the seven and a half decades since its first inception. It is also a tribute to the many healthcare professionals who have read *Annales Nestlé* over the years, using its content to keep abreast of new directions in the rapidly evolving field of pediatric medicine in general and, more recently, pediatric nutrition in particular. Last but not least, it is a tribute to the vision and commitment of Nestlé, which has consistently supported the review through its various incarnations, and which continues to do so today via the Nestlé Nutrition Institute.

The editorial decision to focus exclusively on nutrition, which dates from 1995, was taken in response to the speed of developments taking place in pediatric medicine as a whole. This focus has been maintained ever since. The subject of pediatric nutrition was always an important concern of *Annales Nestlé*, however, with articles on breast milk (1950), rickets (1951), vitamins (1951), pre-term nutrition (1953), and nutrition and eczema (1953) appearing alongside papers on topics as diverse as whooping cough, rheumatism, and premature pneumonia during the review's early years. The social and emotional context of pediatric medicine has also featured on occa-

sions, with contributions on, for example, social influences on the physiopathology of children (1951), the beaten child (1968), and accidents in children (1968).

Writing in the Foreword to the milestone 40th edition, which appeared in October 1982, the Editorial Committee observed: "The review enjoys a wide readership, with a print run of 60,000 being distributed in many countries, and this in five languages (English, German, Spanish, French and Portuguese). This considerable success obliges us to continually strive for further improvements." In their preface to the 60th anniversary edition (volume 60, number 3, 2002), the Editorial Committee provided an update: "More than 120,000 copies of this review are distributed three times per year in five languages (English, French, German, Spanish and, more recently, Chinese)." They went on to observe: "Its objective is to keep updated the pediatric community and others interested in infancy by relating research progress in the fields of epidemiology, diagnostic, prevention and treatment of the principal illnesses that strike children in different parts of the industrialized and developing world. Thus, it addresses a varied public whose preoccupations are not necessarily the latest developments in molecular biology or imaging devices, but the means to fight malnutrition, infections and their consequences for the development of the child."

Today, the content of *Annales Nestlé* is initially published in *Annals of Nutrition and Metabolism*, a leading international peer-reviewed journal (current impact factor 2.42). It then appears as *Annales Nestlé*, being mainly distributed in online form via the Nestlé Nutrition Institute (www.nestlenutrition-institute.org). The journal therefore addresses a global readership, bringing state-of-the-art thinking on pediatric nutrition to the scientific

community as well as to many pediatricians who work in remote parts of the world. The Editorial Board of *Annales Nestlé* would like to thank Prof. Bert Koletzko, the Editor of *Annals of Nutrition and Metabolism*, for his excellent support and cooperation during the past years.

The evidence-based, holistic, and global view of pediatric nutrition that characterizes *Annales Nestlé* is well represented in this 75th issue, with contributions from authors based in The Gambia, Pakistan, Poland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Australia. Topics which were burning decades ago and are still sensitive were selected for this issue.

In his paper “The Double Burden of Malnutrition in Countries Passing through the Economic Transition,” Andrew Prentice outlines how, although many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are undergoing economic advancement, the accompanying “nutrition transition” occurring within their populations is triggering a new health challenge. Increasingly sedentary lifestyles and energy-dense diets have led to a rapid increase in the prevalence of overweight and obesity. Improvements in nutrition in many LMICs have succeeded in reducing rates of stunting, but in Africa, rapid population growth has led the absolute number of children suffering from stunting to rise. The populations of many parts of Africa, as of many other LMICs, are faced with the “double burden” of malnutrition, whereby under- and overnutrition are simultaneously present in the same population, and sometimes even in the same individual. Prentice hopes that these countries will at least have the benefit of learning from the experience of other countries that have previously undergone the “nutrition transition” and all it entails.

Focusing on the nutritional requirements of older children, adolescents, and young women of childbearing age, Jai K. Das and fellow contributors note that supplementation of the diet with iron and multiple micronutrients has been shown to reduce levels of anemia, but that evidence for effective strategies to prevent and control malnutrition and obesity is lacking, especially in developing countries. The diet and nutritional status before and during pregnancy can have a long-term effect on the nutritional status, growth, and health of offspring. Stressing the intergenerational link between adequate nutrition before and during pregnancy and the health of future generations, the authors argue that guidelines are needed to support nutrition interventions targeting these sections of the population.

Hans B. van Goudoever’s contribution focuses on a much younger demographic – preterm infants – and discusses the crucial role played by human milk in delivering

adequate nutrition to support growth and health during this vulnerable life stage. Placing his observations within the context of the history of modern preterm care, van Goudoever references the first article that *Annales Nestlé* published on the subject of the nutrition of neonates, which appeared in 1983. van Goudoever discusses the development of human milk fortifiers, essential for meeting the high nutritional requirements of infants born premature, and also outlines improved methods for pasteurizing human donor milk.

Given the steadily rising prevalence of food allergies, food allergy prevention has become a global health priority. Breastfeeding is a key pillar of primary allergy prevention, and in recent years, research has encouraged the proactive introduction of hypoallergenic formulas in non-breastfed infants and of food allergens from the age of 4 months. Ralf G. Heine discusses this in his contribution, “Food Allergy Prevention and Treatment by Targeted Nutrition,” and also assesses the transformations that have recently taken place in the treatment of food allergies, with immunotherapy via the oral or epicutaneous route offering the promise of effective future treatment strategies.

None of the above articles – or indeed any of the articles that have appeared in *Annales Nestlé* during the past 75 years – would have been possible without the contribution of evidence-based medicine (EBM) and clinical research. Hania Szajewska argues that although EBM had a positive influence on medical practice in the last quarter of the 20th century, it still needs further refinement, and that considerably more rigor is required in the design, execution, analysis, and reporting of clinical research. Szajewska’s belief is that the collation, combination, distribution, and analysis of data from new sources – “big data” and “real-world data” – have the potential to bring about significant improvements in both EBM and clinical research, which are both likely to be transformed in the process.

From the perspective of this 75th anniversary issue of *Annales Nestlé*, it is intriguing to ponder which issue of this review might carry a discussion of how the changes envisaged by Szajewska have come about, and what improvements they have made to pediatric practice. The 100th, perhaps?

Thanks to Jonathan Steffen, who helped with the research, and thanks to all who have made this milestone issue of *Annales Nestlé* possible, along with all the many issues that preceded it.

Prof. Ferdinand Haschke, MD

Guest Editor of the 75th issue of *Annales Nestlé*
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