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Preface

Throughout human history it has been known that adequate nutrition is crucial for normal child growth, and this has become a common concern to all child health care givers since at least the 19th century. Yet, the precise mechanisms underpinning the interaction between nutrition and growth have not been fully clarified. It is important, yet challenging, to define the best nutrition for healthy and active children as well as for those who suffer from acute or chronic disease, considering varying needs of different age groups. We believe that the interaction between nutrition and growth is a major issue for growing children, their parents, and the medical teams taking care of them throughout the neonatal period, infancy, childhood, and adolescence. Indeed, physicians and scientists throughout the world have been putting great efforts into research exploring underlying mechanisms and effects, resulting in many manuscripts describing their findings. As in the past issues, in the present volume of the *Nutrition and Growth Yearbook* leading international specialists in nutrition and growth selected a limited number of some of the most interesting studies from peer-reviewed journals published in the period between July 2020 and June 2021 and added their comments on these manuscripts. We realize we may have missed some other important studies which are also of value to the reader. We hope, however, that the summary of the published manuscripts and our comments will provide an additional and helpful view of interpretation, and that they will stimulate readers to look for more manuscripts in the field in order to help them in providing children and their care givers the best practice possible, as well as encouraging them to lead more studies.

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