

Preface

The responsibilities of the Pediatric Nephrologist in the critical care setting are multifaceted. Management of acute renal failure with and without renal replacement therapy, fluid and electrolyte abnormalities and hypertensive emergencies are only some of the major clinical circumstances where the renal specialist is involved in the care of children admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Due to the complex and specialized care required, critical care nephrology could even be considered a separate entity compared to the clinical scenarios treated in the outpatient setting or on the inpatient pediatric ward. Recently, the changing role of the Nephrologist in the ICU setting, much more expanded than the classic provision of renal replacement therapy, has been discussed in the community of providers involved in renal care, and fellowships with special emphasis on Intensive Care Pediatric Nephrology are being considered. This changing role requires coordination of care between the Pediatric Nephrologist and other teams of physicians caring for critically ill children more often than in the past.

As several providers are involved in the majority of critically ill children and many valid approaches may exist, consensus needs to be reached before making important diagnostic or therapeutic decisions. Good on-going communication between the Intensivist, the

Nephrologist and other involved specialists is vital to optimize the outcome for each individual child.

In this first edition of the book, we have included chapters focused on general topics in pediatric nephrology that are most germane to the care of the critically ill child. We have tried to look at the clinical situations from the aspect of both the Pediatric Intensivist and renal specialist. We hope that this book will supply the medical providers with a framework to approach the challenges faced in practicing Pediatric Intensive Care Nephrology.

We express our thanks to all the contributing authors, all of whom have expertise in either Critical Care Pediatrics or Pediatric Nephrology and have years of experience with the care of this unique patient population. Any task as complex as the completion of a book publication requires several sets of helping hands in the background. We especially appreciate the constant help of Jodi Boyd and Jan Wilkins, as this project would not have been possible without them.

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