

Preface

Initially, this book was planned in tribute to the late professor André Kahn, who oversaw the world's only successful physiological prospective study of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) at Brussels Free University (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) Children's Hospital in Belgium. Although a long time has passed since Professor Kahn passed away in September 2004, this publication of papers from Springer is a very pleasing event and one which is expected to make a great academic contribution to this area.

This book is composed of six SIDS-related papers and two baby science-related papers.

Patricia Franco, who recommended and led the work of Professor Kahn, has contributed three papers on SIDS that compile the work of Professor Kahn and take it a step further. Three papers have also been contributed by Japanese authors. These papers include papers from the perspectives of Prof. Kohyama—a pediatric sleep expert with a profound knowledge of SIDS, and Dr. Ozawa—a specialist in pediatric neuropathology who has studied the neuropathology of SIDS over many years, as well as a paper written by myself—an expert on pediatric forensic medicine, which summarizes the results of my joint research with Professor Kahn.

Baby science, similarly to child science, was a discipline born and developed in Japan under the field of brain science. Two baby science-related articles have been included at the end of this book in consideration of the possibility of the results of baby science clinical trials being applied and contributing to SIDS research areas in the future.

While this publication is a specialized SIDS book, it is a record that goes beyond the boundaries of national and academic expertise and attempts to look at the unknown phenomena of “sudden infant death syndrome” from multiple perspectives and methodologies. Its content will be of deep interest to pediatricians, physiologists, pathologists, neuroscientists, forensic scientists and brain scientists. I want this book to go beyond the scope of medicine and be a guide closer to the basic mechanisms of the phenomenon of life.

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