
Preface



This book would not have seen the light had it not been for David Branski.

It was him who called Stefano asking him if he would consider a second edition of the book 'Textbook of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition', edited in 2004 by Taylor & Francis, but expanding it to include hepatology. Stefano was reluctant (it takes a huge commitment to edit such a book!), but David had a way of convincing that was hard to resist, and when he brought into the picture Anil as a prospective editor for the liver part, resisting was futile!

The three of us laid out the design of the project together and the enthusiasm about it grew: in fact, David's knowledge, his calm but confident demeanor, his never-ending energy to learn and prolific writing skills were a guarantee of the book's success. Sadly, only few months later, when the details of this book had just been put together, we heard the news of his untimely demise. We debated in panic whether to continue this commitment or abort it, but it did not take us long to agree that we needed to carry this project to completion as a tribute to the doyen of pediatric gastroenterology of our times.

Three sections of this edition, gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition cover the common disease states with an updated emphasis on pathophysiology and any expected future advances. The chapters are clinically oriented and aim at making easier the decision-making process for trainees in pediatrics and pediatric gastroenterology, pediatricians and nurse practitioners.

The extensive section of gastroenterology covers the main congenital disorders with their newer diagnostic techniques, with chapters specifically dedicated to the term or preterm newborn; common conditions that every pediatric gastroenterologist is likely to face in his/her practice; and conditions that are either relatively new, such as eosinophilic disorders, or in a state of rapidly evolving treatment options like inflammatory bowel diseases. New treatment paradigms (e.g. probiotics or fecal microbial transplantation) are also specifically dealt with.

The chapters on hepatology focus on newer diagnostic techniques, treatment advances and quality of life issues: for instance, the chapter on transition of children with liver disease provides a unique view from a psychologist and adolescent hepatologist on how best to improve the outcome of this group of patients. Some of the chapters like liver transplantation are deliberately longer to give the reader comprehensive information on the state of the art on indications, complications and the management of immunosuppression. Finally, the chapter on the future of hepatology is particularly thought-provoking in that it discusses the role of genomics and other 'omics' in the diagnosis and real options of small molecules, gene therapy and liver cell transplantation in the management of liver disease.

We are humbly but surely confident that David would have loved this book, which we gratefully dedicate to him.

Stefano Guandalini

Anil Dhawan

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and Nutrition

A Comprehensive Guide to Practice

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