
Preface

This book truly is a “labor of love.” When we were pediatric ophthalmology fellows at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto from 1989 to 1990, we were both already board-certified pediatricians. Going to SickKids was like being children in a candy shop. With our interest in pediatric systemic disease and love of children, combined with our interest in ophthalmology, the possibilities seemed endless. Our Fellowship Director and mentor, Dr. Donald Morin, taught us much and pushed us towards excellence. He made it seem like any goal could be achieved. When we came up with the idea for a comprehensive textbook on the ocular manifestations of pediatric systemic disease, he was encouraging but warned us about the enormity of the effort. He had written one of the great pediatric ophthalmology textbooks, *The Eye in Childhood*, and was well published in many areas. As an academic pediatric ophthalmologist, he knew the rigors of putting a project like this together. Yet, he believed in us, and also knew that there was no similar publication on the market. So, along with our co-fellow, Dr. James Elder, who has authored two of the chapters in this book, we set forward trying to make the book a reality.

Some chapters were drafted, others never began. Time passed. Our careers developed, we went to separate parts of the world, we raised our families, and the project found its way to the “back burner.” It was not till recent years that we got the idea of bringing the project back to life. There was no other book available like the one we were planning. Our goal is an encyclopedic reference to be used by non-ophthalmologists and ophthalmologists. For the pediatricians and other non-ophthalmologists, it would be a place where they can learn about the ocular manifestations of diseases they see. For the ophthalmologists, it was a place where they can learn more about the systemic disorders that present to them with ocular findings. Readers might be asking questions such as: “What are the eye findings of this disease that need to be considered? Is the eye finding in my patient a manifestation of the disease? What tests should I be ordering? For what should I be screening?” And for those who want to delve further, the chapters are heavily referenced to provide an entry point into the literature regarding any detail the reader wishes to explore. Although the book is not an atlas, key pictures of findings specific for diseases, rather than generic ocular findings, are provided. Our comprehensive approach is designed to fill the gaps in each reader’s knowledge outside their own specialty.

So we recruited new authors and contacted some of the old authors. We believe strongly in the importance of collaboration between pediatricians and pediatric ophthalmologists. Therefore, every chapter has at least one author who is a pediatric ophthalmologist as well as one coauthor who is a non-ophthalmologist with expertise in the field being discussed. We encouraged the use of trainees and other collaborators to write each chapter understanding the huge amount of work that was required. We carefully vetted the chapters and edited them thoroughly to ensure accuracy as well as a comprehensive approach. Each chapter covers many disorders. We decided to allow redundancy between chapters as the approach between authors of different disciplines to a given disease, which covers more than one organ system, might offer unique perspective. Each disease is discussed where possible in sections: definition, history, epidemiology, systemic manifestations, ophthalmic manifestations, diagnosis, and management. We believe the result is unique and uniquely useful.

Everyone who contributed to this book learned in the process. We hope that readers will also experience an expansion of their horizons as they step outside their daily lives of practice to reach into the world of the disciplines with whom they collaborate. We hope that this textbook will become the “go to” source for physicians from all areas, who deal with children, and are trying to understand the ocular manifestations of pediatric systemic disease. We look forward to having physicians come together through this book and establishing appropriate consultation patterns and collaborations. Together, we will all benefit the children we care for. Dr. Morin has unfortunately passed away, but this book is dedicated to everything he believed in: learning, supportive training, collaboration, and above all, thoughtful informed care of the child.

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