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Contents

VI Foreword

Kiess, W. (Leipzig)

VII Preface

Mimouni, F.B. (Tel Aviv); van den Anker, J.N. (Washington, DC/Basel/Rotterdam)

1 Influence of Maturation and Growth on Drug Metabolism from Fetal to Neonatal to Adult Life

Lindemalm, S. (Stockholm); van den Anker, J.N. (Washington, DC/Rotterdam/Basel)

13 How to Translate Pharmacokinetic Data into Dosing Recommendations

Krekels, E.H.J.; Knibbe, C.A.J. (Rotterdam/Leiden); Pokorna, P. (Rotterdam/Prague); Tibboel, D. (Rotterdam)

28 Pharmacovigilance in Neonatal Intensive Care

Turner, M.A.; Hill, H. (Liverpool)

41 Neonatal Formulations and Additives

Allegaert, K. (Leuven); Turner, M.A. (Liverpool);
van den Anker, J.N. (Washington, DC/Rotterdam/Basel)

58 Modelling and Simulation to Support Neonatal Clinical Trials

Khalil, F.; Läer, S. (Düsseldorf)

70 A Systematic Review of Paracetamol and Closure of Patent Ductus Arteriosus: Ready for Prime Time?

Hammerman, C. (Jerusalem); Mimouni, F.B. (Jerusalem/Tel Aviv); Bin-Nun, A. (Jerusalem)

83 Formulation of Preterm Formula: What's in it, and Why?

Mimouni, F.B. (Jerusalem/Tel Aviv); Mandel, D.; Lubetzky, R. (Tel Aviv)

108 Neonatal Pharmacotherapy: Legal and Regulatory Issues

Bax, R.; Tomasi, P. (London)

124 Author Index

125 Subject Index

Foreword

The authors, editorial board and publisher wish to dedicate this volume in our Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine series, published by Karger Publishers, Basel, Switzerland, to Prof. Dr. David Branski, Jerusalem.

David Branski passed away last year, painfully and much too early, and he is greatly and dearly missed by his family, his friends and his colleagues around the world. David Branski was a professor at Hadassah in Jerusalem, and he was one of the leading pediatric gastroenterologists of our time. He was loved and liked by all who got to know him. His humble and friendly and always-supportive demeanour made him a laudable and highly respected colleague. David inaugurated and supported our Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine book series over many years. I was welcomed by David to join him as a co-editor for our series some years ago. Here, I could witness his warmth, his humble and highly intelligent personality, and his devotion to and liking of children and their families. I also became aware of his deep and wise understanding of science and of scientific medicine.

While we all miss David Branski very much, it was a joy, an honour and very rewarding to have been able to get to know him and to work with him over the years. I am particularly grateful that I was able to welcome David and his wife one summer evening in Leipzig. This, our personal meeting, closed the circle between us and our institutions, the University of Leipzig in Germany and Hadassah Medical Centre in Jerusalem, Israel.

Again, we solemnly dedicate this volume of the Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine series with the title of 'Neonatal Pharmacology and Nutrition Update', edited by Francis B. Mimouni and Johannes N. van den Anker, to the memory of David Branski, to his scientific work and to his collegial friendship.

Wieland Kiess, Leipzig

Preface

In December 2005, on a flight to Brussels, one of us (Francis Mimouni) travelled with Prof. David Branski, of blessed memory, to the board meeting of the European Academy of Pediatrics. David asked Francis if he had any ideas about possible topics for books in the Karger series in Pediatrics. Francis, a neonatologist, immediately felt that one of greatest challenges in Neonatology was the correct use of medications, which for the most part, have never been tested in neonates, and even less so in small, fragile ‘micropremies’.

David registered the idea as a ‘good one’, and in 2011, he contacted Francis. The problem was that Francis was not a real pharmacologist, and his connection with the ‘alchemy’ of drugs was through the field of nutrition and metabolism. Francis promptly looked for a partner for this endeavor and found that the specific issues he thought needed to be tackled were the topics of a newly organized course in Pediatric and Neonatal pharmacology at the European Society for Pediatric Research’s annual meeting in Newcastle. Well-respected European and US experts gave outstanding lectures during this course, and Francis met Johannes van den Anker, one of only a handful of world-renowned experts in Neonatal Pharmacology. We decided to work together on this book, which is dedicated to Neonatal Pharmacology and Nutrition, and used the program of the ESPR course as a template. To make it even more attractive for the readership, we have added three very relevant chapters to its content: a chapter on the regulation of drug development, another on the rationale and scientific basis for formula development in preterm infants, and a third chapter presenting a systematic review and meta-analysis on the use of paracetamol (acetaminophen) for the medical closure of patent ductus arteriosus.

We hope you will enjoy reading this book, which is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend, Prof. David Branski.

Francis B. Mimouni, Tel Aviv
Johannes N. van den Anker, Washington, DC/Basel/Rotterdam

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