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## Foreword

Professor Charles Sultan has edited an outstanding issue of *Endocrine Development*. Professor Sultan is a pediatric endocrinologist with hands-on experience in clinical and basic science, particularly in the field of steroid action. He is one of the few reputed specialists worldwide to have recognised the importance of the subject of pediatric and adolescent gynecology, which spans pediatrics, adolescent medicine, reproductive endocrinology and gynecology. He is to be congratulated for assembling a most impressive group of international contributors.

The goal of this volume, to discuss key issues in gynecology of the child and adolescent, is ambitious but succeeds emphatically. There are few, if any, books which cover the subject as comprehensively as this volume. Basic techniques of clinical and radiological examination are covered. The chapter on ambiguous genitalia will be valuable to the pediatrician, and those on disturbances of puberty are relevant to doctors caring for the child, adolescent and young woman. Hyperandrogenism, a common cause of clinical referral, is covered extensively, as are menstrual irregularities and prevention and care of teenage pregnancy, as well as many other relevant topics.

The overall objective is to improve the care of the female child and adolescent. In addition to emphasis on clinical management, sound and up-to-date science is included to give theoretical background where appropriate. All relevant issues of this important, and arguably neglected field, are covered. I am delighted to welcome this volume as a very worthy addition to the *Endocrine Development* series.

*Martin O. Savage*, London

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## **Preface**

Pediatric and adolescent gynecology is an emerging specialty, at the intersection of pediatrics, pediatric endocrinology, gynecology, pediatric surgery, dermatology, psychiatry, public health medicine and genetics. It thus addresses a wide spectrum of diseases from the newborn period to adolescence.

Progress in molecular biology and genetic research, as well as in imaging techniques, has greatly contributed to our understanding of the pathologies of gynecological development and, indeed, has helped to more clearly define the limits of physiological variation.

The gynecological problems encountered in children and adolescents are often both medically and psychologically complex and thus require a highly skilled and coherent approach. The adolescent, who is no longer a child but not quite an adult, poses a particular management problem to the traditional specialties. In the field of adolescent gynecology more than anywhere else, the medical attitude is often striking by its extremes: from a seemingly indifferent ‘wait-and-see’ policy (true indifference or ignorance?) to an overzealous interventionism – and this at a developmental moment requiring great sensitivity and tact.

This volume does not exhaustively cover the entire field of pediatric and adolescent gynecology. Instead, its goal is to explore some of the most commonly encountered problems seen in clinical practice today. I am deeply grateful to the many experts who graciously agreed to contribute their insights and knowledge on different aspects of this broad field: together they represent a wealth of clinical experience firmly based on some of today’s most exciting research. I have no doubt that their collective offering will enrich the work of practitioners the world over.

On a more personal note, let me conclude by expressing my great appreciation to Dr. Yvette Salomon-Bernard, one of the pioneers in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology; Prof. Raphael Rappaport, a longstanding leader in this field; Prof. Claude Migeon who first welcomed me to the Johns Hopkins University Hospital, and Prof. Roger Jean who was my mentor from the very beginning. All of them encouraged the young pediatric endocrinologist that I was (some years ago!) to broaden my clinical work to include pediatric and adolescent gynecology – and I thank them.

*Charles Sultan, Montpellier*