

A Letter to Our Readers

Dear Colleague:

The Editorial Board is pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of *Growth, Genetics, and Hormones*, a publication for academicians and practicing physicians who are interested in these important areas of medical practice. We are pleased to welcome you as a reader and invite you to participate as a reader and as a correspondent.

Normal and abnormal growth, genetically determined conditions, and the overall development of children are important aspects of pediatric practice. Hormonal production is essential in growth and development. It is probable that these areas will assume even greater prominence because pediatricians are showing greater interest in growth and development as immunizations and antibiotics diminish the incidence of infectious disease, as greater numbers of children with leukemia and other cancers enter sustained remissions, and as growing numbers of handicapped infants with congenital anomalies survive.

It is also well recognized that the literature concerning these topics is voluminous. Therefore, *Growth, Genetics, and Hormones* was developed, primarily, to provide a close look at current—and often controversial—topics in endocrinology, genetics, and metabolism and their potential clinical applications. To ensure that this goal is met now and in the future, several nationally and internationally respected authorities in genetics, endocrinology, anthropometrics, pediatrics, pharmacology, and metabolism have agreed to serve on the Editorial Board.

The eminent investigators who have agreed to serve as Associate Editors are: Dr. Jürgen Bierich of the University of Tübingen, West Germany; Dr. Judith Hall of the University of British Columbia Medical School; Dr. Fima Lifshitz of Cornell University School of Medicine; Dr. David Rimoin of the University of California at Los Angeles; Dr. Alan Rogol of the University of Virginia School of Medicine; and myself. You will meet each of the Board members in the early issues of *Growth, Genetics, and Hormones* (see page 5 of this issue).

The editorial content of this quarterly publication was chosen with your interests in mind. This issue, for example, features an article about the incidence of growth hormone deficiency, a review of growth hormone physiology and pathophysiology, and a summary of a recent conference concerning the psychosocial aspects of growth delay. These are scientific, timely, and representative of the topics that *Growth, Genetics, and Hormones* will address.

Abstracts of pertinent articles and reports will appear in each issue. In the future, the abstracts will serve as "mini reviews" and integrate multiple reports on a particular topic.

An Editor's Column will be a regular feature of future issues. You are invited to correspond with the Editorial Board. Such correspondence will be included whenever possible and will receive an open reply when indicated.

To help you keep up with major developments in pediatrics, genetics, and endocrinology, a calendar of meetings and postgraduate courses will appear in each issue. You are invited to advise us of meetings that you think pertinent for publication.

We are pleased to present this inaugural issue to you. We welcome your readership and look forward to hearing from you about *Growth, Genetics, and Hormones*. We would also appreciate your filling out the enclosed reply card to let us know of your initial interest.

On behalf of the Editorial Board:

Sincerely,



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