

of Pediatrics

FOURTEENTH EDITION

Volume 2

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PREFACE

The publication of the Fourteenth Edition of *Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics* comes at a time of significant advance in the application of molecular biology, genetics, and cell biology to understanding health and disease in children and to the development of new prevention and treatment modalities. However, it also occurs at a time when the circumstances of many children are desperate in terms of the incidence of preventable deaths and disabilities and the loss of opportunity to fulfill their potential as healthy, productive, and happy adults.

The editors of this textbook continue their commitment to provide a comprehensive, concise, and current one-volume edition, addressing the full range of problems related to the health and welfare of children that are faced by practitioners, house staff, and medical students. We have tried to do this in a manner that encompasses both the science and art of pediatrics.

This edition represents a major revision based on a complete review of the field of pediatrics and includes many new sections and substantial modification and expansion of others, in terms of understanding, diagnosis, and treatment. Practically no area of the book has been left untouched and, we hope, no section unimproved. Although to an affected child and family even the rarest disorder is of vital importance, it is not possible to cover all health problems in the same degree

of detail in a general textbook of pediatrics. Therefore, leading articles and subspecialty texts are included in the references and should be consulted when more information is desired. This textbook reflects the hard work, thought, and energy of our contributors to achieve completeness, relevance, and conciseness. We are indebted to their efforts aimed at producing an edition that we hope will continue to be helpful to persons caring for children or to those wishing to know more about them.

Since the last edition, we have lost *one* contributor through death. The participation of Harold Harrison is greatly missed.

In this edition we have had informal assistance from faculty and house staff of the Department of Pediatrics at Stanford and Case Western Reserve Universities. The help of these individuals and the numerous pediatricians elsewhere in the United States and around the world who have taken the time to offer thoughtful suggestions is greatly appreciated.

We especially wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Ann Behrman and Sharon Kliegman for their patience, understanding, and help, without which this textbook would not have been possible.

RICHARD E. BEHRMAN, M.D.
ROBERT M. KLIEGMAN, M.D.

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