

Seventh Edition

Forfar & Arneil's  
**TEXTBOOK**  
*of* **PEDIATRICS**

***Commissioning Editor:*** Pauline Graham  
***Development Editor:*** Janice Urquhart  
***Project Manager:*** Nancy Arnott  
***Design Direction:*** Erik Bigland  
***Illustrators:*** Tim Lounhead, Richard Prime

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**TEXTBOOK**  
*of* **PEDIATRICS**

*Edited by*

**Neil McIntosh** DSc(Med) FRCP(Edin) FRCP(Lond) FRCPCH

*Professor of Child Life and Health, University of Edinburgh;*

*Honorary Consultant Paediatrician, Lothian University Hospitals NHS Trust, Edinburgh, UK*

**Peter J. Helms** MB BS PhD FRCP(Edin) FRCPCH

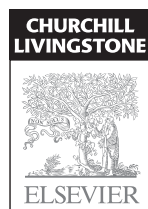
*Professor of Child Health, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK*

**Rosalind L. Smyth** MA MB BS MD FRCPCH F Med Sci

*Brough Professor of Paediatric Medicine, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK*

**Stuart Logan** MB ChB MSc(Epidemiology) MSc(politics) MRCP FRCPCH

*Professor of Paediatric Epidemiology; Director, Institute of Health Research, Peninsula Medical Service School, St Luke's Campus, Exeter, UK*



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#### Note

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# Preface

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One of the most important developments in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has been the acknowledgment that clinical practice should be embedded where possible in a sound evidence base. The editors of this new edition of *Forfar & Arneil's Textbook of Pediatrics* continue to set contributors the challenging task of ensuring that the statements and recommendations made are based on the most robust clinical research available. The objective assessment of evidence and the formulation of secure recommendations from the evidence are gathering pace. In Child Health the evidence base, with the possible exception of disciplines such as oncology and neonatology, is not as comprehensive or as well defined as we would wish. This edition of Forfar & Arneil continues to flag up the most important evidence sources for the content of each chapter. The whole book has been revised and updated and the chapter authors and editors again incorporate where possible secure evidence of therapy, diagnosis, etiology and prognosis. This evidence is incorporated into the individual chapters and in the chapter reference list is starred for easy reference. We believe that the result is the most comprehensive evidence-based general textbook of pediatrics available. Our ability to access best evidence has been greatly enhanced by the rapid advances of information technology and electronic

publishing and consequently another important new feature for this edition is a website of the text in which references listed in PUBMED can be accessed via the internet. We would like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of the many individual authors and our chapter editors, without whom this ambitious project would not have been possible. It has been a great privilege to work with them. We would also like to thank our own secretaries for their unstinting help (Elaine Forbes, Flora Buthlay, Collette Lorne and Stella Taylor) and of course our respective families for sharing the burden with us.

As with previous editions the book is produced by the Elsevier Organization. There have been many highly professional people involved. We hope that this new 7th edition with its expanded formal evidence base will be well received by you, the reader, and become as trusted a friend and guide as have previous editions.

Neil McIntosh  
Peter J. Helms  
Rosalind L. Smyth  
Stuart Logan



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# Contributors

**Ishaq Abu-Arafeh**, MBBS, MD, MRCP, FRCPC  
Consultant in Paediatrics and Paediatric  
Neurology, Stirling Royal Infirmary, Stirling;  
Honorary Consultant Paediatrician, Fraser of  
Allander Neurosciences Unit, Royal Hospital  
for Sick Children, Glasgow, UK

**N. Archer**, MA FRCP FRCPC DCH  
Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, Oxford  
Children's Hospital, Oxford; Honorary  
Clinical Senior Lecturer, University of  
Oxford, Oxford, UK

**Peter D. Arkwright**, FRCPC DPhil  
Lecturer in Child Health, Department of  
Child Health, University of Manchester,  
Manchester, UK

**Ian A. Auchterlonie**, MB ChB FRCPC FRCP  
Honorary Consultant Paediatrician (Retired),  
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital,  
Aberdeen, UK

**Alastair J. Baker**, MB ChB FRCP FRCPC  
Consultant Paediatric Hepatologist, King's  
College Hospital, London, UK

**Susan V. Beath**, BSc MB BS MRCP DTMBH FRCPC  
Consultant Paediatric Hepatologist, The  
Liver Unit, Birmingham Children's Hospital,  
Birmingham, UK

**Thomas F. Beattie**, MB MSc FRCSEd(A&E), FCEM,  
FRCPE, FFSEM, DCH  
Consultant in Emergency Medicine, Royal  
Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh;  
Honorary Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics,  
University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

**Julie-Clare Becher**, MB ChB MRCPCH MD  
Consultant Neonatologist, Simpson Centre  
for Reproductive Health, Royal Infirmary of  
Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

**W. Michael Bisset**, BSc MB ChB DCH MSc MD  
FRCPE FRCPC  
Consultant Paediatric Gastroenterologist,  
Department of Medical Paediatrics, Royal  
Aberdeen Children's Hospital, Aberdeen, UK

**Peter S. Blair**, PhD  
Medical Statistician, Senior Research Fellow,  
University of Bristol, Division of Child Health,  
Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

**Paula H.B. Bolton-Maggs**, FRCPC FRCP FRCPath  
Consultant Haematologist, Manchester  
Comprehensive Care Haemophilia Centre,  
Department of Clinical Haematology,  
Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester, UK

**Paul L.P. Brand**, MD  
Consultant Paediatrician and Director of  
Postgraduate Education, Princess Amalia  
Children's Clinic, Isala klinieken, Zwolle,  
The Netherlands

**Colin E. Bruce**, MB ChB FRCS FRCS(ORTH)  
Consultant Paediatric Orthopaedic  
Surgeon, Alder Hey Children's Hospital,  
Liverpool, UK

**Helen Budge**, BA BM BCh PhD MRCP FRPCH  
Associate Professor of Neonatology,  
University of Nottingham, Nottingham,  
UK

**Neil R.M. Buist**, MB ChB FRCPE DCH  
Professor Emeritus, Departments of  
Paediatrics and Medical Genetics, Oregon  
Health and Science University, Portland,  
Oregon, USA

**Nigel Peter Burrows**, MD FRCP  
Consultant Dermatologist and Associate  
Lecturer, Department of Dermatology,  
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, UK

**Andrew Bush**, MD FRCP FRCPC  
Professor of Paediatric Respiriology, Imperial  
College, London; Honorary Consultant  
Paediatric Chest Physician, Royal Brompton  
Hospital, London, UK

**Gary Butler**, MB BS MD FRCPC  
Professor of Paediatrics, Institute of Health  
Sciences, University of Reading and  
Department of Paediatrics, Royal Berkshire  
Hospital, Reading, UK

**Catherine M. Cale**, MB ChB PhD MRCP MRCPC  
MRCPPath  
Consultant in Paediatric Immunology  
and Immunopathology, Department of  
Immunology, Great Ormond Street Hospital,  
London, UK

**Harry Campbell**, MD FRCPE FFPH FRSE  
Professor of Genetic Epidemiology and  
Public Health Sciences, College of Medicine  
and Vet Medicine, University of Edinburgh,  
Edinburgh, UK

**Andrew J. Cant**, BSc MD FRCP FRCPC  
Consultant in Paediatric Immunology and  
Infectious Diseases, Newcastle General  
Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

**Michael Clarke**, BSc MRCP DCH FRCPC  
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Leeds  
Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds, UK

**Andrew Gavin Cleary**, MB ChB BSc MSc MRCPCH  
Consultant Paediatric Rheumatologist, Royal  
Liverpool Children's Hospital, Liverpool, UK

**J. Brian S. Coulter**, MD FRCP(I) FRCPC  
Honorary Clinical Lecturer in Tropical  
Child Health, Liverpool School of Tropical  
Medicine, Liverpool, UK

**Jonathan Coutts**, MB ChB FRCPC FRCP(Glas)  
Consultant Neonatal and Respiratory  
Paediatrician, The Queen Mother's Hospital  
and Royal Hospital for Sick Children,  
Glasgow, UK

**Richard Coward**, MB ChB MRCPCH PhD  
MRC Clinician Scientist and Consultant  
Paediatric Nephrologist, Bristol Royal  
Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

**Finella Craig**, BSc MBBS MRCP  
Consultant in Paediatric Palliative Care,  
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children,  
London, UK

**Timothy J. David**, MB ChB MD PhD FRCP FRCPC  
DCH  
Professor of Child Health and Paediatrics,  
Honorary Consultant Paediatrician, The  
University of Manchester, Manchester, UK

**Joyce E. Davidson**, BSc MBChB MRCP (UK) FRCPC  
Consultant Paediatric Rheumatologist, Royal  
Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, and  
Royal Hospital for Sick Children,  
Edinburgh, UK

**E. Graham Davies**, MB BChir MA FRCPC  
Consultant Paediatric Immunologist, Great  
Ormond Street Hospital, London, UK

**Jan Dudley**, BM MRCP(UK) FRCPC PhD  
Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Bristol  
Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

**P. Barton Duell**, MD  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Division  
of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Clinical  
Nutrition; director, Lipid-Atherosclerosis  
Laboratory and Metabolic Disorders Clinic,  
Oregon Health and Science University,  
Portland, Oregon

**Heather Elphick**, MB ChB MRCP MRCPC MD  
Specialist Registrar in Respiratory  
Paediatrics, Sheffield Children's Hospital,  
Sheffield, UK

**Nicholas D. Embleton**, BSc MD FRCPC  
Consultant in Neonatal Medicine and

Honorary Lecturer in Child Health, Newcastle Neonatal Service, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

**Gregory M. Enns**, MB ChB  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Director, Biochemical Genetics Program, Division of Medical Genetics, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA

**Jeremy Farrar**, FRCP DPhil OBE  
Professor of Tropical Medicine Oxford University; Honorary Professor of International Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London; Director, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, The Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

**Colin D. Ferrie**, BSc MB ChB MD MRCP FRCPCH  
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Department of Paediatric Neurology, Leeds General Infirmary, Leeds, UK

**Alistair R. Fielder**, FRCP FRCS FRCOphth  
Professor of Ophthalmology, Department of Optometry and Visual Science, City University, London, UK

**Brian W. Fleck**, MD FRCOph  
Consultant Ophthalmologist, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Edinburgh Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, UK

**Peter J. Fleming**, PhD MB ChB FRCPCH FRCP  
FRCP(C)  
Professor of Infant Health and Developmental Physiology, University of Bristol; Consultant Paediatrician, Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

**Caroline Foster**, MB BS MRCP  
Honorary Clinical Research Fellow, Imperial College London; SPR Paediatric HIV, St Mary's Hospital, London, UK

**Yvonne Freer**, RGN RM RSCN BSc PhD  
Research and Practice Development Facilitator, Neonatal Intensive Care, Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

**Vijeya Ganesan**, MRCPCH, MD  
Senior Lecturer in Paediatric Neurology, Institute of Child Health, University College London, London, UK

**Anne S. Garden**, FRCOG  
Head of Department of Medicine and Director of the Centre for Medical Education, Lancaster University, Lancaster; Honorary Consultant in Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology, Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Liverpool; Honorary Consultant Gynaecologist, University Hospitals Morecambe Bay Trust, Morecambe, UK

**Andrew R. Gennery**, MD MRCP MRCPCH  
DCH DipMedSci  
Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Immunology, BMT Institute of

Cellular Medicine, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Children's Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, Newcastle General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

**Diana Gibb**, MD FRCPCH MSc  
Professor of Paediatric Epidemiology, MRC Clinical Trials Unit, University College London, London, UK

**K. Michael Gibson**, PhD, FACMG  
Professor, Pediatrics, Pathology and Human Genetics, Division of Medical Genetics, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

**Barbara Golden**, BSc MB BCh BAO MD FRCP  
FRCPCH DCH RNutr  
Associate Dean (Medicine), Clinical Senior Lecturer, Honorary Consultant International Child Health, Child Health Institute, School of Medicine, University of Aberdeen, Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, Aberdeen, UK

**John M. Goldsmid**, BSc MSc PhD FRCPATH FACTM  
FASM CBiol FIBiol FAIBiol HonFRCPA HonFACTM  
Emeritus Professor, Discipline of Pathology, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

**John R.W. Govan**, BSc PhD DSc  
Professor of Microbial Pathogenicity, Centre for Infectious Diseases, University of Edinburgh Medical School, Edinburgh, UK

**Stephen M. Graham**, FRACP  
Paediatric Research Fellow and Deputy Director Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme, University of Malawi College of Medicine, Blantyre, Malawi; Senior Clinical Lecturer, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool, UK

**Anne Green**, BSc MSc PhD FRCPATH FRCS FIBiol  
FRCPCH  
Consultant Clinical Scientist, Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust, Birmingham, UK

**Marcus Grompe**, MD  
Director, Oregon Stem Cell Center; Professor, Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics, Oregon and Health Science University, Portland, Oregon, USA

**Henry L. Halliday**, FRCPE FRCP FRCPCH  
Chair of Child Health and Welfare Research Group, Department of Child Health, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

**Christina Halsey**, BM BCh BA MRCP MRCPATH  
Leukaemia Research Fund Clinical Research Fellow, Faculty of Medicine, Glasgow University, Glasgow, UK

**Cary O. Harding**, MD  
Assistant Professor, Molecular and Medical Genetics; Director of the Biochemical Genetics Clinical Laboratory, Oregon Health

and Science University, Portland, Oregon, USA

**C. Anthony Hart**, BScMB BS PhD FRCPCH FRCPATH  
Professor, Division of Medical Microbiology, School of Infection and Host Defence, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

**Paul T. Heath**, MB BS FRACP FRCPCH  
Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant, Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Division of Child Health, St George's University of London, London, UK

**Peter J. Helms**, MB BS PhD FRCP(Edin) FRCPCH  
Professor of Child Health, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK

**John Henderson**, MD FRCP FRCPCH FRCPed  
Reader in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine, University of Bristol and Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

**Tom Hilliard**, MD FRCPCH  
Consultant Respiratory Paediatrician, Bristol Children's Hospital, Bristol, UK

**Peter Hoare**, DM FRCPsych  
Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburgh; Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, UK

**Richard F. Howard**, BSc MBChB FRCA  
Consultant in Anaesthesia and Pain Management, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, UK

**Imelda Hughes**, FRCPCH  
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Department of Paediatric Neurology, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Manchester, UK

**Robert Hume**, BSc MB ChB PhD FRCPedin FRCPCH  
Professor of Developmental Medicine, Maternal and Child Health Sciences, University of Dundee, Dundee, UK

**Carol Inward**, MBBCh MD FRCPCH  
Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

**David Isaacs**, MB BChir MD FRACP FRCPCH  
Senior Staff Specialist at Children's Hospital at Westmead; Clinical Professor in Paediatric Infectious Diseases, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

**Omar Ismayl**, MD MSc MRCPCH  
Consultant Neurologist, Damascus University Children's Hospital, Mezza, Damascus, Syria

**Huw R. Jenkins**, MA MD FRCP FRCPCH  
Consultant Paediatric Gastroenterologist, Department of Child Health, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Wales, UK

**Cheryl A. Jones**, MB BS PhD FRACP  
Associate Professor, and Sub Dean Postgraduate Studies, Discipline of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Sydney; Sydney, New South Wales, Australia



**Christopher J.H. Kelnar**, MA MD FRCP FRCPCH  
Professor of Paediatric Endocrinology,  
Section of Child Life and Health, Division of  
Reproductive and Developmental Sciences,  
University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

**Alison M. Kemp**, MB BCH DCH MRCP  
FRCPCH FRCP(Edin)  
Reader in Child Health, Department of Child  
Health, Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales

**Alastair I.G. Kerr**, MBChB FRCS(Edin & Glas)  
Consultant Otolaryngologist, Ear, Nose and  
Throat Department, Royal Infirmary for Sick  
Children, Edinburgh, UK

**Alison M. Kesson**, MB BS PhD FRACP FRCPA  
Virologist, Microbiologist and Paediatric  
Infectious Disease Physician, The Children's  
Hospital, Westmead, Sydney New South  
Wales; Conjoint Associate Professor,  
Paediatrics and Child Health, University of  
Sydney, Sydney New South Wales, Australia

**Maurice A. Kibel**, FRCP(Edin) DCH(Lond).  
Emeritus Professor of Child Health, School  
of Child and Adolescent Health, University of  
Cape Town, South Africa

**Denise Kitchiner**, MD FRCP FRCPCH  
Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist,  
Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust,  
Liverpool, UK

**Nigel J. Klein**, BSc MB BS MRCP PhD FRCPCH  
Professor of Infection and Immunity,  
University College London; Head, Infectious  
Diseases and Microbiology Unit, Institute of  
Child Health; Head, Department of Infection,  
University College London; Consultant in  
Infectious Diseases and Microbiology,  
Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust,  
London, UK

**David M. Koeller**, MD  
Associate Professor, Pediatrics and Molecular  
and Medical Genetics; Chief, Division  
of Metabolism, Department of Pediatrics,  
Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Oregon  
Health and Science University, Portland,  
Oregon, USA

**Sailesh Kotecha**, MA FRCPCH PhD  
Professor of Child Health, Department of  
Child Health, Wales College of Medicine,  
Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales, UK

**Karen Kotloff**, MD  
Professor, Pediatrics and Medicine, Center  
for Vaccine Development, University of  
Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore,  
Maryland, USA

**Ian A. Laing**, MA MD FRCP FRCPCH  
Consultant Neonatologist, Simpson Centre  
for Reproductive Health, Royal Infirmary of  
Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

**David G. Laloo**, MB BS MD FRCP  
Reader In Tropical Medicine, Liverpool  
School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool, UK

**Alison Leaf**, BSc MB ChB MD MRCP FRCPCH  
Consultant Neonatologist, Southmead  
Hospital, Bristol, UK

**Malcolm I. Levene**, MD FRCPCH FMedSc  
Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health,  
University of Leeds, Leeds General Infirmary,  
Leeds, UK

**Leesa M. Linck**, MD MPH  
Consultant Paediatrician,  
The County Clinic, Winthrop,  
Washington State, USA.

**John H. Livingston**, MB ChB FRCP FRCPCH  
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist,  
Department of Paediatric Neurology, Leeds  
General Infirmary, Leeds, UK

**Stuart Logan**, MB ChB MSc(Epidemiology)  
MSc(Econ) MRCP FRCPCH  
Professor of Paediatric Epidemiology;  
Director, Institute of Health and Social  
Care Research, Peninsula Medical School,  
St Luke's Campus, Exeter, UK

**Diana N.J. Lockwood**, BSc MD FRCP  
Consultant Physician and Leprologist,  
Hospital for Tropical Diseases, London, UK

**Andrew J. Lyon**, MA MB FRCP FRCPCH  
Consultant Neonatologist, Simpson Centre  
for Reproductive Health, Royal Infirmary of  
Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

**Ronan Lyons**, MD FFPH FFPHM MPH DCH  
Professor of Public Health, Centre for Health  
Information, Research and Evaluation,  
School of Medicine, Swansea University,  
Swansea, UK

**Anita Macdonald**, PhD BSc SRD  
Consultant Dietician in Inherited Metabolic  
Disorders, Birmingham Children's Hospital,  
Birmingham, UK, Head of Dietetics,  
Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust,  
Birmingham, UK

**Mary McGraw**, FRCP FRCPCH  
Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist,  
Bristol Royal Hospital for Children,  
Bristol, UK

**Keiran McHugh**, FRCP FRCPCH DCH  
Consultant Paediatric Radiologist, Great  
Ormond Street Hospital for Children,  
London, UK

**Neil McIntosh**, DSc(Med)  
Professor of Child Life and Health,  
Department of Child Life and Health,  
University of Edinburgh; Honorary  
Consultant Paediatrician, Lothian University  
Hospitals NHS Trust, Edinburgh, UK

**G.A. Mackinlay**, MB BS LRCP FRCSed  
FRCS(Eng) FRCPCH  
Senior Lecturer, Department of Clinical  
Surgery, University of Edinburgh; Consultant  
Paediatric Surgeon, Department of Paediatric  
Surgery, Royal Hospital for Sick Children,  
Edinburgh, UK

**Ian McKinley**, OBE BSc MB ChB DCH FRCP FRCPCH  
Senior Lecturer in Child Health, McKay-  
Gordon Centre, Royal Manchester Children's  
Hospital, Manchester, UK

**Sheila A.M. McLean**, LLB MLitt PhD LLD FRSE  
FRCGP FMedSci FRCP(Edin) FRSA  
International Bar Association Professor of  
Law and Ethics in Medicine, University of  
Glasgow, Glasgow, UK

**Sabine Maguire**, MB BCH BAO MRCP FRCP FRCPCH  
Senior Lecturer in Child Health, Cardiff  
University, Department of Child Health,  
Cardiff, UK

**Janice Main**, FRCP(Edin) FRCP(Lond)  
Reader and Consultant Physician in  
Infectious diseases and General Medicine,  
Department of Medicine, Imperial College,  
St Mary's Hospital, London, UK

**Guy Makin**, BA BM BCH PhD MRCP FRCPCH  
Senior Lecturer in Paediatric Oncology,  
University of Manchester; Honorary  
Consultant Paediatric Oncologist,  
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital,  
Manchester, UK

**Timothy Martland**, MB ChB MRCP MRCPC  
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist,  
Department of Paediatric Neurology,  
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital,  
Manchester, UK

**Amha Mekasha**, MD MSc  
Associate Professor of Paediatrics and Child  
Health, Department of Paediatrics and  
Child Health, Addis Ababa University,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Craig Mellis**, MB BS MPH MD FRACP  
Head of School, Associate Dean, Central  
Clinic School, Faculty of Medicine, The  
University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

**Stefan Meyer**, MD PhD MRCPC  
CRUK Clinician Scientist and Consultant  
Paediatric Oncologist, University of  
Manchester, Royal Manchester Children's  
Hospital and Young Oncology Unit, Christie  
Hospital, Manchester, UK, Stefan Meyer MD  
PhD MRCPC

**Alan E. Mills**, MA MB DCP DPath FRCPA.  
FFPathRCPI FACTM  
Consultant Pathologist, Dorevitch Pathology,  
Bendigo, Victoria, Australia

**Elizabeth Molyneux**, OBE FRCP FRCPCH FEM  
Professor and Head of Department of  
Paediatrics, College of Medicine, Blantyre,  
Malawi, C Africa.

**Malcolm E. Molyneux**, MD FRCP FMedSci  
Director, Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust  
Clinical Research Programme, College of  
Medicine, University of Malawi, Malawi;  
Professor of Tropical Medicine, School of  
Tropical Medicine, University of Liverpool,  
Liverpool, UK

**Kim Mulholland, MD FRACP**

Professor of Child Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK

**Alan O. Mulvihill, FRCSI FRCSed**

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion and Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, UK

**Richard W. Newton, MD FRCPCH FRCP**

Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Manchester, UK

**Angus Nicoll, CBE FFPHM FRCP FRCPCH**

Director, Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, Centre for Infection, Health Protection Agency, London, UK

**James Y. Paton, MD, FRCPCH FRCPSCG**

Reader in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine, Division of Developmental Medicine, University of Glasgow, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, UK

**Michael A. Patton, MA MSc MBChB FRCPCH**

Professor of Medical Genetics and Consultant Medical Geneticist, Department of Medical Genetics, St George's Hospital Medical School, London, UK

**Philip L. Pearl, MD**

Associate Professor of Paediatrics and Neurology, Department of Neurology, Children's National Medical Center, The George Washington University School of Medicine, Washington DC, USA

**Gale A. Pearson, MB BS MRCP FRCPCH**

Consultant in Paediatric Intensive Care, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Birmingham, UK

**Stavros Petrou, BSc MPhil PhD**

MRC Senior Non-Clinical Research Fellow, National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

**Ian J. Ramage, FRCPCH**

Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, UK

**John J. Reilly, BSc PhD**

Professor of Paediatric Energy Metabolism, University Division of Developmental Medicine, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, UK

**J.M. Rennie, MD FRCP FRCPCH DCH**

Consultant and Senior Lecturer in Neonatal Medicine, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Obstetric Hospital, University College London Hospitals, London

**Sam Richmond, MB BS FRCP FRCPCH**

Consultant Neonatologist, Sunderland Royal Hospital, Sunderland, UK

**Irene A.G. Roberts, MD FRCP FRCPATH FRCPCH DRCOG**

Professor of Paediatric Haematology and Consultant Paediatric Haematologist, Hammersmith Hospital and St Mary's Hospitals, Imperial College, London, UK

**Peter T. Rudd, MD FRCPCH**

Consultant Paediatrician, Royal United Hospital, Bath, UK

**S.C. Robson, MD MRCOG**

Professor of Fetal Medicine, School of Surgical and Reproductive Sciences, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

**Jean-Baptiste Roulet, PhD**

Associate Professor (Research), Division of Metabolism, Department of Paediatrics, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon, USA; Adjunct Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

**George Rylance, MB FRCPCH**

Consultant in Paediatrics, Department of Child Health, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

**Moin A. Saleem, MB BS FRCP PhD**

Reader and Honorary Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Bristol Children's Hospital, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

**Alison Salt, MB BS MSc FRACP FRCPCH**

Consultant Developmental Paediatrician, Neurodisability Service, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust and Institute of Child Health, London, UK

**Jenefer Sargent, MA MB BCh MSc MRCPCH**

Consultant Developmental Paediatrician, Neurodisability Service, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust, London, UK

**Ayad Shafiq, FRCOphth MRCPpaeds DCH BM BCh**

Consultant Ophthalmologist, Royal Victoria Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

**Jonathan R. Skinner, MB ChB FRCPCH FRACP MD**

Paediatric Cardiologist, Green Lane Paediatric and Cardiac Services, Starship Children's Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand

**Alan Smyth, MA MB BS MRCP MD FRCPCH**

Reader in Child Health, University of Nottingham; Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Nottingham, UK

**Rosalind L. Smyth, MA MB BS MD FRCPCH**

Brough Professor of Paediatric Medicine, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

**Robert D. Steiner, MD**

Professor, Pediatrics and Molecular and Medical Genetics; Vice Chair for Research, Department of Pediatrics, Doernbecher

Children's Hospital; Deputy Director, Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon, USA

**Ben Stenson, MD FRCPCH FRCP**

Consultant Neonatologist, Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

**Terence Stephenson, DM FRCP FRCPCH**

Professor of Child Health; Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Medical School, University of Nottingham, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, UK

**Stephen Stick, PhD MB BChir MRCP FRACP**

Associate Professor, Department of Respiratory Medicine, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, University of Western Australia, Australia

**Stephen Sturgiss, MD MRCOG**

Consultant in Obstetrics and Fetal Medicine, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

**David Sweet, MD FRCPCH**

Consultant Neonatologist, Royal Maternity Hospital, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

**Angela E. Thomas, MB BS PhD FRCP FRCPATH FRCPCH**

Consultant Paediatric Haematologist, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, UK

**James Tooley, MB BS MRCPCH**

Consultant in Neonatal Medicine, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, St Michael's Hospital, Bristol, UK

**E. Jane Tizard, MB BS, FRCP FRCPCH**

Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK

**Russell Viner, MB BS FRCPCH FRACP FRCP PhD**

Consultant in Adolescent Medicine and Endocrinology, Department of Paediatrics, Middlesex Hospital, London, UK

**Rachel Webster, BSc PhD DipRCPath**

Clinical Scientist, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Birmingham, UK

**Philip D. Welsby, FRCP(Ed)**

Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Infectious Disease Unit, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, UK

**Johannes Wildhaber, MD PhD**

Head, Division of Respiratory Medicine, University Children's Hospital, Zürich, Switzerland

**Anthony F. Williams, BSc DPhil MB BS FRCP FRCPCH**

Reader in Child Nutrition, St George's, University of London, London, UK

**Bridget A. Wills**, BmedSci BM BS MRCP DTM&H  
Clinical Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics,  
University of Oxford – Wellcome Trust  
Clinical Research Unit, Ho Chi Minh City,  
Vietnam

**David C. Wilson**, MD FRCP FRCPCH  
Senior Lecturer in Paediatric  
Gastroenterology and Nutrition, Child Life

and Health, Department of Reproductive  
and Developmental Sciences, University of  
Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

**Rachael Wood**, BSc MB ChB DCH MFH MFPH  
Clinical Academic Fellow, Department  
of Public Health Sciences and Centre for  
International Public Health Policy University  
of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

**Christopher Wren**, MB ChB FRCP FRCPCH  
Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, Freeman  
Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK



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