

# Editorial

## Happy new year !

A new year begins and, with it, comes a multitude of wishes, greetings and good resolutions.

Shaken up by the successive crises of the last years, the world is in transformation. An evolution that our cartoonist, Serge Ernst, has drawn in the hollow of our hands.

Everywhere, big conferences and meetings are organized to decide and to coordinate protection, preservation, defense, development, recovery and reconstruction: the G7 Summit (June 26-28; Krun, Germany) the COP27 for climate (November 6-18; Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt), the G20 Summit (November 15-16; Bali, Indonesia), the COP15 for biodiversity (December 7-19; Montreal, Canada), the Conference in support of Ukraine (December 13-14; Paris, France). Far away, plans and commitments are made to improve life on earth. The coming months will tell us if the will to carry them out is real.

Among the international gatherings of this year, we would like to come back to a particular event: the soccer world cup that took place in Qatar. There were many reasons not to mention it, or even to boycott it: non-respect of human rights, disastrous working conditions of the workers on the construction sites, catastrophic ecological costs, suspicions of corruption, ... As actors in the pediatric world, we must acknowledge that it was difficult to stay away from this widely publicized event. It is also contradictory to encourage the practice of sports among young people and to leave it under silence, when it takes place in a highly questionable context. Because yes, sport and soccer are very popular in children and adolescents. Yes, sport and physical activities are good for health. Yes, playing, setting goals and challenges, participating in competitions, recognizing the superiority of an opponent, and keeping the desire to win are important lessons in the development of a well-balanced personal and social life. Yes, celebrating a victory together and enjoying a shared accomplishment are unifying, resourcing and energizing moments. As adults, as pediatrician ambassadors for children, we must, more than ever, ensure that sport is not diverted from its founding values. And despite all the concerns mentioned above, it must be admitted that the competition played in December between the world's greatest soccer teams, delivered us some positive messages that inspired us to write this editorial. First of all, we would like to say that we have no footballing pretensions. Our biggest regret was not to see the Red Devils go further in the tournament. As many observers, we noticed that the teams that performed the best were those with a strong common will, a real collective game. Of course, there were individualities with exceptional qualities but, even in the grand finale, we saw that these players made the difference when they served the group, when they built collectively with their team. The twists and turns throughout the competition were also an illustration of the power of trust and confidence, of the importance of remaining determined, of not giving up. The team that won the tournament was the first negative surprise with a defeat in its initial match... As the matches went on and until the last minutes of the final game, we have seen players taking on themselves, observing, adapting, surpassing themselves and showing creativity to build with their teammates a new style of play and to find the key to success.

These are the messages we retain for this new year, these are the wishes we formulate for each of you. May 2023 give you the opportunity to always believe and the joy to contribute with your strengths and talents to the construction of a better world where it is good to live and to grow !

Once again, this December issue of the BJP is an illustration of the medical and scientific quality of our pediatric community and particularly of our young colleagues in training. This month, we are proud to publish several case reports about rare pathologies (triple A syndrome by T. Brose et al., congenital nasal pyriform aperture stenosis by L. Franssen et al., acute disseminated encephalomyelitis by M. Kwakernaat et al., chronic obstructive cholestasis associated with invasive fungal infection in a preterm neonate by A. Geurden et al.). Other articles also describe and discuss unusual clinical presentations in common pediatric settings: endocarditis and embolic complications by I. Aslanides et al., post-traumatic cortical blindness by T. Dominicus et al., acute focal cerebral lesions in children with diabetic ketoacidosis by A.L. Kolleger et al., Merkel diverticulum by N. Gerets et al. and tracheoesophageal fistula after ingestion of a button battery by D. Dinneweth et al.. E. Surgun and her team analyzed the impact of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine on the incidence of parapneumonic pleural effusion and report intriguing results in the Belgian population between 2000 and 2019. L. VanCamp et al. present the survey they made among Belgian paediatric trainees and recently graduated paediatricians about subspecialties in paediatrics. Our Cochrane corner section reviews which splinting strategies are best for the non-operative management of developmental dysplasia of the hip in children under six months of age. In the "Made in Belgium" section, we have invited Michael Aertsen from KULeuven to summarize his thesis about the brain magnetic resonance imaging in current fetal medicine.

Once again and on behalf of the entire board, we wish you a happy new year and a pleasant reading. We hope to see you in great shape in March at the next congress of the Belgian Society of Pediatrics.

**Christophe Chantrain and Marc Raes**

**Uw vragen of commentaar  
Vos questions ou commentaires**



BELGISCHE VERENIGING  
VOOR KINDERGEENEESKUNDE  
SOCIÉTÉ BELGE DE PÉDIATRIE

**Comité de rédaction - Redactieraad  
M. Raes - C. Chantrain**

Gasthuisberg - Kindergeneeskunde

Herestraat 49 - 3000 Leuven

E-mail BJ-Ped@hotmail.com