Cleft lip and palate is a complex, multifactorial and relatively common craniofacial disorder, which arises because of disrupted facial development in the embryo. The manifestations of this condition can be life-long and associated with significant morbidity. In the last decade, progress has been made in our understanding of how clefts of the lip and palate arise in human populations, and laboratory studies are beginning to elucidate the molecular mechanisms that control development of the lip and palate. In addition, advances in surgical and medical care, and long-term rehabilitation are improving outcome and quality of life for affected individuals. Written by international experts in their respective fields, this publication covers in detail the epidemiology and genetic basis of cleft lip and palate, the developmental biology of lip and palate formation and provides current concepts in the management of patients affected by this condition. Thus, the book provides a contemporary overview of the epidemiology, aetiology and treatment of cleft lip and palate, and will be of use to a wide range of individuals, including students, biologists and clinicians, who have an interest in this subject.

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Editors: G. Pfleiderer, M. Battegay, K. Lindpaintner
VI + 122 p., 4 fig., 2 in color, hard cover, 2012
CHF 59.– / EUR 49.– / USD 69.00
ISBN 978–3–8055–9649–7

GenEthics and Religion
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VI + 154 p., hard cover, 2010
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ISBN 978–3–8055–8973–4

The certainty and uncertainty of one’s fate are discussed from both methodological and epidemiological perspectives, using examples of diseases for which treatment and prognosis have dramatically changed. Despite profound insights into the human genome, personalized genetically tailored medicine still lies in the future. Religious, spiritual and philosophical dimensions are discussed, as are the ways in which they may help people cope with these new insights into their future, e.g. the promise of an afterlife. This publication aims to bridge the different fields dealing with this area by addressing the challenges faced and encouraging dialogue. It will be of interest to all readers who deal with ethical problems of prognosis, particularly in medicine, as well as to theologians and sociologists.

Based on the symposium ‘GenEthics and Religion’ (Basel, Switzerland, May 2008), this volume examines the role religion can play in establishing ethical guidelines to protect human life in the face of rapid advances in biology and gene technology. It does so with contributions by philosophers, theologians, human geneticists, and several bioethicists representing the Christian, Jewish, Islamic and Buddhist perspectives. The essays illustrating a diversity of views and expressing the problems and self-critical reflectiveness of religious ethicists are brought up to date and discuss the importance of religious ethics in society’s discourse on gene technology.

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Genetics of Growth

Editors
Jan M. Wit
Primus-E. Mullis

This first special topic issue of Hormone Research in Paediatrics is completely dedicated to Genetics of Growth, a rapidly developing area of paediatric endocrinology associated with the stormy progress of genetic techniques. The topics covered in this issue include the role of zinc in the process of secretory granule biogenesis in somatotrophs; novel mutations in various parts of the growth hormone-IGF axis, including GHR, GHRF, IGFBP, and IGFR1; discussion of a website containing clinical, biochemical and genetic information about presently known genes in this axis; clinical characteristics of children with SHOX defects and Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome, and association analysis and pharmacogenetics in relation to growth and growth response to growth hormone. The papers illustrate that in this fast moving field close collaboration between clinicians and geneticists, and between paediatric endocrinologists around the world, is necessary to solve diagnostic problems in short or tall individuals, and to get a better insight into the phenotypic spectrum of the genetic causes thereof.

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Down syndrome and Fragile X syndrome are two of the most common developmental disorders of the nervous system in humans. Now that animal models can reliably reproduce many of the phenotypes of these disorders, it has become possible to elucidate the nature of the biological mechanisms that are involved in these two syndromes and new therapeutic options have potentially become available. Highlighting the past, present and future research and the treatment of Down syndrome and Fragile X syndrome, this special topic issue provides a collection of primary research and review articles by leading experts in the field. The broad scope of the articles will be of great interest to both researchers and clinicians in the field of neurodevelopmental disorders.

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Maternal and Child Nutrition: The First 1,000 Days

Editors
Jatinder Bhatia
Zulfiqar A. Bhutta
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Growth and nutrition during the fetal period and the first 24 months after birth are important determinants of development in early childhood. Optimal nutrition and health care of both the mother and infant during these first 1,000 days of an infant’s life are closely linked to growth, learning potential and neurodevelopment, in turn affecting long-term outcomes. Children with low birth weight do not only include premature babies, but also those with intrauterine growth restrictions who consequently have a very high risk of developing metabolic syndrome in the future. Epidemiology, epigenetic programming, the correct nutrition strategy and monitoring of outcomes are thus looked at carefully in this book. More specifically, two important nutritional issues are dealt with in depth: the first being the prevention of low birth weight, starting with the health of adolescent girls, through the pre-pregnancy and pregnancy stages and ending with lactation. The second point of focus concerns the nutritional follow-up and feeding opportunities in relation to dietary requirements of children with low birth weight.

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