

## EDITORIAL

### Children's medicines – an international approach

Observant readers will have noticed that the articles in this issue of the journal come from five different continents. Paediatric and Perinatal Drug Therapy has consistently encouraged researchers from all parts of the world to submit their findings.

There have been major advances in relation to encouraging paediatric clinical trials in North America and Europe<sup>1-3</sup>. It is important to recognise, however, that the majority of children in the world live outside of Europe and North America. If one considers both morbidity and mortality in children worldwide, it is clear that the greatest need is in developing countries<sup>4</sup>. There is increasing awareness of the needs of children worldwide in relation to appropriate medicines<sup>5-6</sup>. The involvement of the World Health Organization (WHO) in relation to essential medicines for children and improving access to these medicines is a major step forward<sup>7</sup>.

The two societies that support Paediatric and Perinatal Drug Therapy are the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group, which is based in the UK and the European Society for Developmental, Perinatal and Paediatric Pharmacology (ESDP). Despite the fact that these two societies are located in Europe, they both recognise the importance of children's medicines in the developing world. The ESDP has recently joined the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR) as it recognises that children's medicines are a worldwide issue. IUPHAR, alongside other organisations such as the

International Paediatric Association, have raised the issue of better medicines for children within the WHO. Paediatric and Perinatal Drug Therapy welcomes these initiatives and will continue to highlight issues relating to children's medicines in the developing world.

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