

From butterflies to mosquitoes...

With the arrival of the summer holidays and the long-awaited return of the sun in Belgium, we are delighted to bring you this latest issue of Belgian Journal of Paediatrics, focusing on tropical paediatrics.

Human beings have always been attracted to travelling and discovering the world. This may have something to do with our original instincts as nomadic hunter-gatherers. We need to explore, to venture out, to encounter new territories, new realities. In all eras and cultures, travel has been encouraged and seen as a positive step towards personal and social development. In the 16th century, Michel de Montaigne said that *travel shapes youth*. Later, in the 19th century, Emile Zola went further, saying that *nothing develops intelligence like travel*. At the same time, the American author Mark Twain wrote that *travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness*. The Danish writer Hans-Christian Andersen, author of many stories for children and also great traveler, poetically described the benefits of travelling with these words: "To move, to breathe, to fly, to float, to gain all while you give, to roam the roads of lands remote, to travel is to live." At this time of year, and with this issue, we want to make travel a safe and serene experience, even for our youngest patient. A very practical article provides advice on what to anticipate and what to pay attention for travelling with children.

In the recent decades, interactions and exchanges between continents, countries and peoples have contributed to a rapid and major economic boom conceptualised by the term globalization. As our two guest editors, Daan Van Brusselen and Dimitri Van der Linden, suggest, this globalisation now goes beyond purely economic aspects and has an impact on medicine and healthcare. A minor event, a microscopic infectious agent, a benign bite with a vector in a faraway country can lead to severe consequences that are later felt on the other side of the world... Here, the famous "butterfly effect" is related to the action of mosquitoes! In children who have previously travelled, we need to be able to recognize the symptoms and to offer treatment for a potential tropical disease. It is also important to take rapid action to avoid contagion. For this purpose, a panel of paediatric experts presents consensus recommendations for the management of malaria in Belgium.

Endemic infectious agents can be transported to countries thousands of kilometers away from their region of origin, not only by patients but also by the carriage of their vectors. Each year, several cases of Plasmodium infections transmitted by African mosquitoes are reported in the vicinity of Belgian airports. In addition, climate change, which is now becoming a reality, may also favor the occurrence and the epidemic development of diseases that were previously found only in warmer and/or more humid countries. The example of Human West Nile virus infection and its risk of local transmission in Belgium is discussed by Mark Wojciechowski and colleagues.

On behalf of the Editorial Committee, we would like to thank the two guest editors and the many authors who are experts in infectious and tropical diseases for their contribution to this outstanding theme issue.

Beside the theme articles, this issue also features several case reports and original studies. The "Child Advocacy" section details the demands and prospects for the organization of care for rare diseases. In the "Made in Belgium" section, Tania Vanhee summarizes her doctoral thesis, completed jointly at ULB and VUB. She studied the fear, anxiety and phobia of the dentist and analysed a federating instrument about the different material and behavioral techniques for ideal patient management.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and we wish you a bright and sunny summer.

Christophe Chantrain and Marc Raes, Editors-in-chief

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



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

Gasthuisberg - Kindergeneeskunde
Herestraat 49 - 3000 Leuven
E-mail BJ-Ped@hotmail.com