

STRENGTH LIES IN UNITY !

This spring issue, the first of 2025, marks an important step in the life of our journal and in that of the Belgian paediatric associations. New year, new colours, new layout... those of the Belgian Academy of Paediatrics (BAoP). As announced and presented many months ago, BAoP is the result of the merger of the Belgische Vereniging voor Kindergeneeskunde/Société Belge de Pédiatrie (BVK/SBP), the Groupement Belge des Pédiatres de langue Française (GBPF) and the Vlaamse Vereniging voor Kindergeneeskunde (VVK). We look back with gratitude and much appreciation on what they have achieved and how they paved the way for the current BAoP.

The status and missions of the BAoP are extensively described in its website (www.baop.be). Its main goal is to represent and promote the interests of children and paediatricians at regional and national levels in Belgium and internationally. In close cooperation with all child-centred organisations, it aims to inform and influence the political arena to advocate for children and youngsters. It will also serve as an umbrella of all regional and Belgian scientific and professional paediatric organisations as well as all universities to improve standards in training, service and research in Belgium as well as in Europe. Several Task Forces have been identified to support these ambitious missions.

Bringing together and even merging several groups is a great challenge, a source of opportunity and a means of increasing the impact and sustainability of actions. It can also be a source of drift or dangers that need to be approached with great care. We see examples of this every day, not only in the sector of health, but also in the world of business, politics and diplomacy. As a small country in the heart of Europe, Belgium has always taken this into account. With many nuances, sometimes with creativity and relativity, we have tried to apply our national motto: Eendracht maakt macht - L'union fait la force - Einigkeit macht stark. This has guided the internal organisation of our country, but also its role and influence in the construction of the European Union and in our implication in major international bodies.

Our history and the times we are currently living in show us that change, the development of alliances and the merger process can also be frightening. Fears related in particular to the involvement of all, to the balance between the rights and duties of members, and to respect for diversity and singularity. It is therefore necessary to support these movements with great care. Without mentioning them by name, we would like to take the opportunity of this editorial to thank all those who, over many months, have devoted so much time and energy to defining, refining and communicating the BAoP project. In all fields, it is recognised that the strength of a group is proportional to the sense of belonging that each of its members feels. This feeling is itself nourished by the involvement and responsibility of each individual. We hope that this will be the case for our academy and, as Editors-in-Chief, we would like to reaffirm the desire of the Belgian Journal of Paediatrics (BJP) to be a key tool of communication for the BAoP. We are keen to continue sharing clinical observations and the results of scientific studies carried out by paediatricians from Belgium and from abroad. We want to strengthen our involvement in the training of young colleagues by encouraging them to write scientific articles. In this regard, we are delighted to publish in the current issue the message of Prof Stephane Moniotte at the opening ceremony of the 53rd Annual Paediatric congress. A supplementary issue is also published with the abstracts that were presented in Mons on March 13 and 14 2025. We also take this opportunity to thank the entire organising team for the quality and success of this conference.

The mission of the BJP is only possible thanks to the support of the training supervisors and the constructive review of experienced paediatricians. Once again, we would like to thank these reviewers who improve the quality of our journal year after year. The names of all our reviewers for the year 2024 are listed on page xx. The BAoP aims to take advantage of resources it has gathered to better define and regularly update new recommendations for the management of diseases and clinical situations. The Belgian JP is certainly the place of choice for the dissemination of such consensus. We hope that this will further increase the interest of the Belgian and international paediatric community in our journal.

We hope you will enjoy the read of this issue and we wish you an exciting spring !

Marc Raes and Christophe Chantrain

UW VRAGEN OF COMMENTAAR
VOS QUESTIONS OU COMMENTAIRES



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