

Foreword

This is the 5th IAPO Manual, or handbook. The concept of producing, on an almost yearly basis, a broad update of the field of Pediatric Otolaryngology is admirable; however the implementation of this aim, consistently over the last nine years, is altogether an amazing feat. Most textbooks have a gestation period of several years, are out of date by the time they are printed and cost their editors many grey hairs. It is to the very great credit of Tania Sih that by a mixture of charm and steely determination she continues to persuade the distinguished and busy authors contributing to the regular IAPO Symposia to provide terse, but clearly written and complete summaries of the current state of the art of our specialty. In this she is ably supported by her co-editors, Roland Eavey, Alberto Chinski and Ricardo Godinho. This 5th Manual matches the previous high standards, with reviews of the very latest advances of all aspects of Pediatric ENT.

IAPO lies on an axis matching that of the Earth, from Patagonia to Alaska, with some side branches extending towards the Caribbean, Australasia, Asia and Europe. It lies along a mainland crossing some 20 countries, with a population of close to 500 million, of whom more than 65% live south of the US – Mexican border. There is a very clear need for such a Manual. However this Manual is more than a standard, monoglot text: it is published simultaneously in the three main languages represented in the North and South American continent. It is also distributed free of charge well beyond the territories of IAPO, to doctors of many disciplines in 72 countries. This makes it truly unique in meeting the needs of the many dedicated professionals who have the responsibility of caring for children who, in many cases, have the greatest need of up-to-date medical care.

It is a great honour to have been invited by Tania Sih to contribute this Foreword to this 5th IAPO Manual. The Manual is truly a credit to our speciality of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology. We can be sure that it will be put to good use.

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