



Pediatric Neurology—Current Challenges and Future Perspectives

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Message from the Guest Editor

Pediatric neurology is a relatively new branch of medicine and neurosciences. The growing advances in neuroscience, including brain developmental neurobiology, along with the advances in diagnostic testing, such as neuroimaging and molecular biology, have given a new impetus to the field of child neurology.

Child's brain, from the first weeks of the intrauterine life to adolescence, is a complex developing machinery, and all pathological conditions can be interpreted in the light of perturbation of this highly sophisticated process, leading to an abnormal development. Timing of the disruption of the neural maturation is a diagnostic and prognostic clue. The interplay between genetic and environmental factors is challenging current concepts on pathophysiology of both genetic and acquired diseases and provides a novel framework for interpreting emerging phenotypes. As a result, the overcoming of old interpretative models of disease becomes an urgent need. On the other hand, the progress in diagnostic possibilities and the emerging innovative therapeutic options raise new ethical issues to be addressed.





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