



Preface

Recent advances in neonatal nutrition



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Guest Editor

As increasingly more immature preterm infants survive, challenges related to providing them with optimal nutrition for growth and maturation have become daunting. Research has improved our understanding of the mechanisms that regulate maturation of the preterm gastrointestinal tract as well as the limitations in the abilities of the preterm infant to process nutrients. The first issue of this double issue of the *Clinics in Perinatology* focused on recent advancements in the understanding of the physiology and development of the gastrointestinal tract, whereas this second issue will focus on recent advances in the understanding of neonatal nutrition and metabolism.

This issue will address practical topics for the bedside clinician. The first two articles will emphasize the need for optimizing the nutritional status of preterm infants prenatally as well as postnatally. Subsequent articles will update our current understanding of lipid and carbohydrate metabolism. As nutrient needs are altered by changes in clinical circumstances and interventions that occur throughout an infant's hospitalization, the next two articles will review the metabolic/nutritional issues related to the presence of infection, the use of postnatal steroids, and the presence of chronic disease processes. The final article will review the current methods of assessing adequacy of nutrient delivery and update the reader concerning the enteral feeding supple-

ments and specialized formulas now available for nutrient management for preterm infants.

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