



Optimal Nutrition and Growth of Very Premature Neonates: How Feasible Is It to Achieve at Present?

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Antonios K. Gounaris

1. Department of Medicine,
University of Thessaly, Larissa,
Greece

2. Scientific Associate, Neonatal
Clinic—NICU, “REA” Maternity
Hospital SA, Athens, Greece

Dr. Rozeta Sokou

Department of Neonatology,
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens, 15772
Athens, Greece

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Over the last few years, there has been a significant shift in the feeding practices and growth targets for premature neonates that have contributed to the further improvements in morbidity, survival and long-term prognosis, even for neonates on the extremes of viability. This period could be considered a Third Era in Neonatology as, in our opinion, the changes observed were greater in effect even compared to the Second Era. Despite some broad agreement between feeding guidelines regarding the protein and calorie content, there remain significant variation and policy disagreements, even within the NICUs of the same countries. There has also been no wider consensus on how to approach special categories of neonates such as those with intrauterine growth restriction, small for gestational age or neonates that develop major morbidities. In this Special Issue, we hope for these to be part of the wider discussion and consensus building around the development of universally accepted practices in the feeding and growing of premature neonates that will help them become healthier children and adults.





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Editors-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Lluís Serra-Majem

1. Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red Fisiopatología de la Obesidad y la Nutrición (CIBEROBN), Institute of Health Carlos III, 28029 Madrid, Spain
2. Research Institute of Biomedical and Health Sciences (IUIBS), University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 35001 Las Palmas, Spain
3. Preventive Medicine Service, Centro Hospitalario Universitario Insular Materno Infantil (CHUIMI), Canarian Health Service, 35016 Las Palmas, Spain

Prof. Dr. Maria Luz Fernandez

Department of Nutritional Sciences, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269, USA

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Nutrients Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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