PREFACE

This issue of *Seminars in Speech and Language* is linked closely to the preceding issue and its focus on the topic of pediatric dysphagia. The broad scope of problems encountered with infants and children who have feeding and swallowing problems requires that clinicians who are involved in the assessment and management of these high-risk children have extensive knowledge and guided experiences that are gained through mentorships with master clinicians.

Whether clinicians function in a medical setting or in a school-based setting, the need to interact with other specialists is critical. Thus, feeding and swallowing teams have been developed to meet the needs of these children and their families in a comprehensive manner. Team approaches are discussed in the first article of this issue as vehicles for providing evaluation and management services for these children (M. Lefton-Greif & J. Arvedson). The following articles focus on a series of special problems that are commonly encountered in children with dysphagia. The importance of a team approach, as well as the extensive knowledge base needed by practitioners working with this population, are evident throughout these articles, which illustrate the broad scope of deficits that can occur during the deglutition process. The topics covered include assessment and management of airway problems (L. Brodsky), gastroesophageal reflux (P. Putnam), nutrition issues (A. Kovar), and caregiver/child interactions and behavioral concerns (J. Arvedson). The final two articles address broader issues that all professionals need to consider when working with children having feeding and swallowing disorders: family and caregiver adaptive processes (M. Parrish) and ethical considerations (M. Lefton-Greif and J. Arvedson).

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