

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

COMMITTEE ON DRUGS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, SCOPE, AND FUNCTIONS

THE Committee on Drugs of the American Academy of Pediatrics, originally known as the Committee on Drug Dosage, was established by action of the Executive Board in 1950. Its original purpose was to survey the problem of drug dosage in children. In October 1963 the Executive Board recognized the need for a broader orientation, changed the name of the Committee to its present form, and directed that the Committee become more active in the areas of drug testing and safety of drugs for children. This action resulted in part from several unforeseen events associated with the use (and misapplication) of pharmacologic agents in children.

It has become evident to the Executive Board that there should be an authoritative body concerned with the science and practice of therapeutics as it relates to the pediatric patient (infant, child, and pregnant woman). It is proposed that, through the Committee on Drugs, attention also be focused on the variations in drug response occurring during pre- and postnatal development. Included should be consideration of three factors—genetics, environment, and development—which may alter drug effects in all age groups.

The Committee also feels it is desirable to expand its functions in the area of education and make available to Academy members, and all others concerned with the welfare of children, scientific facts pertinent to drug usage in children. To achieve

this, the Committee will need the aid of those persons capable of objectively gathering and appraising data in the field. Liaison will be established with government agencies, the pharmaceutical industry, and all physicians who, be they pediatricians or not, prescribe drugs to infants and children. The Committee will also seek consultation with experts in pharmacy and pharmacology. Reports of findings of the Committee will be published in *PEDIATRICS* and the *Academy Newsletter*.

The Committee invites inquiries and will reply to them as the available scientific knowledge permits. The ultimate goal of the Committee is to place drug usage in the pediatric age group on a more rational and sound basis. Only in this way will the tragic lessons of the past give way to more effective and responsible therapeutics.

SUMNER J. YAFFE, M.D., *Chairman*
HARRY C. SHIRKEY, M.D., *Chairman*,
1961–1967

ARNOLD P. GOLD, M.D.
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MARY ELLEN AVERY, M.D.
HARRIS D. RILEY, JR., M.D.
IRWIN SCHAFER, M.D.
LEO STERN, M.D.

HENRY L. BARNETT, M.D.*
ALFRED M. BONGIOVANNI, M.D.*
ROBERT J. HAGGERTY, M.D.*

* Member, 1961–1967.

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Pediatrics 1968;41;534

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