

# Foreword

In my travels practicing and teaching children's palliative care around the world, I have been struck by how children's palliative care is essentially the same, wherever you go. Of course there are many, many differences too, but that's not necessarily a contradiction. Wherever they are, children are still children, and palliative care is still palliative care.

In response to this rather paradoxical state of affairs, I have long dreamed of being able to write something that is freely accessible to everyone and which could be just as useful to a doctor in the USA as to a nurse in Bolivia and a Clinical Officer in Uganda. This book is an attempt to create that, and it builds on what I have seen: that most doctors and nurses already have most of the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to be good at children's palliative care, but they just lack the confidence or feel frightened by some of the challenges that inevitably occur when a child is dying.

So the book is structured around the common questions that we ask in tricky palliative situations, building on the research, teaching and training I have done over the last 20 years. Each chapter deals with one question, and starts with reminding us what we already know, before going on to fill in some common gaps. Finally, the book ends with a copy of the Association of Paediatric Palliative Medicine (APPM) Formulary, which is a truly excellent piece of work donated very kindly by Sat Jassal and all at the APPM. I hope this will give you everything you need to manage real life cases in real life settings, with confidence, wherever you are.