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Ghada M. El- Kassas

Dedication

My heartily thanks and deepest gratitude to
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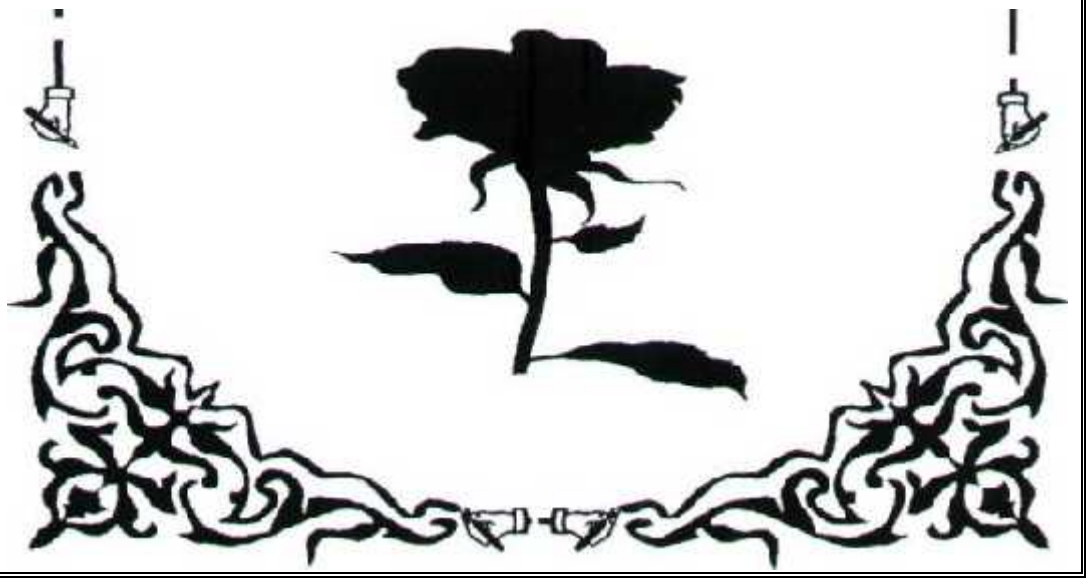
my lovely daughter Noran and son Omar.

A SPECIAL DEEP THANKS TO MY KINDHEARTED HUSBAND FOR HIS SUPPORT, HELP, UNDERSTANDING AND TOLERANCE ALL THE TIME



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List of abbreviations

- ABW: Appropriate birth weight
- AGA: Appropriate for gestational age
- AN: Anorexia nervosa
- ACTH: adrenocorticotropin hormone
- AgRP: Arginine releasing peptide
- AIDS: immune deficiency syndrom
- AMPK: AMP-activated protein kinase
- ARC: Arcuate nucleus
- Arg: Arginine
- BPD: Bronchopulmonary dysplasia
- CAD: Coronary artery disease
- CHF: Chronic heart failure
- CNS: Central nervous system
- CP: Cerebral palsy
- CRH: Corticotrophin releasing hormone
- Des-Gln14: Des-Glutamine14
- DM: Diabetes mellitus
- DNA: Deoxy Ribonucleic acid
- DWMI: diffuse white matter injury
- ELBW: Extremely low birth weight
- GA: Gastetional age
- GABA: γ-aminobutyric acid
- GH: Growth hormone

- GHD: Growth hormone deficient
- GHRH: Growth hormone releasing hormone
- GHRP-6: Growth hormone releasing peptide-6
- GHSs: Growth hormone secretagogues
- GHS-R: Growth hormone secretagogue receptor
- GIT: Gastro-intestinal tract
- Gly-Ser-Ser- Phe: Glycine- Serine-Phenylalanine
- GM-IVH: Germinal matrix intraventricular hemorrhage
- GORD: Gastroesophageal reflux disease
- HDLs: High-density lipoproteins
- I.CV: Intracerebroventricular
- IGF-1: Insulin-like growth factor-1
- IgG: Immunoglobulin G
- IL-1: Interleukin-1
- IP3: Inistol triphosphate
- IUGR: Intrauterine growth retardation
- IV: Intravenous
- IVH: Intraventricular hemorrhage
- Leu: Leucine
- LBW: Low birth weight
- L-S ratio: Lecithin-sphingomyelin ratio
- MCFAs: Medium-chain fatty acids
- MCTs: Medium chain triacylglycerols
- Met: Methionine
- NBW: Normal birth weight

- NEC: Necrotizing enterocolitis
- NICU: Neonatal intensive care unit
- NPY: Neuropeptide Y
- OGTT: Oral glucose tolerance test
- PDA: Patent ductus arteriosus
- PHI: Periventricular hemorrhagic infarction
- PKA: Protein kinase A
- PKC: Protein kinase C
- PP: Pancreatic polypeptide
- PRL: Prolactin
- PVL: Periventricular leukomalacia
- PVN: Paraventricular nucleus
- PWS: Prader-willi syndrome
- RDS: Respiratory distress syndrome
- RIA: Radioimmune assay
- RNA: Ribo-deoxynucleic acid
- ROP: Retinopathy of prematurely
- SDS: Standard deviation score
- SGA: Small for gestational age
- SRIF : Somatostatin
- T.H: Thyroid hormones
- UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
- VLBW: Very low birth weight
- VMN: ventromedial nuclei
- WHO: World health organization

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