The history of pediatric psychology is relatively brief, but like developing humans from infancy to adulthood, the early years have been ones of rapid and complex growth. In fact, the field's organizational home, the Society of Pediatric Psychology (Section V of the Division of Clinical Psychology of the American Psychological Association), celebrated its twenty-first birthday as a "Coming of Age" in 1989. This chapter will provide an overview to this developmental history of pediatric psychology in terms of its concepts, organizational bases, practice, research, and publication archive. An historical perspective may also be obtained from the two articles from early in the field's development reprinted in Section I. For additional views, several knowledgeable authors have described the history of pediatric psychology (e.g., Magrab, 1989; Mesibov, 1984; Routh, 1975, 1988a; Walker, 1988; White, 1991).

HISTORY OF PEDIATRIC PSYCHOLOGY

The roots of pediatric psychology can be found early in the separate disciplines of pediatrics and psychology (Routh, 1975). Anderson (1930), addressing the American Medical Association, suggested that a collaboration between pediatrics and child psychology would be a beneficial one. He suggested that child psychologists could contribute particularly to pediatrics through intelligence testing and consultation to parents regarding child-rearing practices. Not much seems to have resulted from this call.

1This section relies on several sources: Elkins (1987); Roberts, Quevillon, and Wright (1979); Routh (1975); Salk and Routh (1972); Willis (1977).
Later, Kagan (1965), a child psychologist, called for a "new marriage" between psychology and pediatrics. Kagan envisioned that this collaboration would provide pediatricians with an understanding of personality dynamics and research. He suggested that the professionals would work on many childhood problems with an emphasis on prevention, early detection, and treatment. In an important, vitalizing article, Logan Wright (1967) coined the term pediatric psychology to describe the psychological practice "dealing primarily with children in a medical setting which is nonpsychiatric in nature" (p. 323). This article, originally published in the American Psychologist, is reprinted in Section I in recognition of its significance in outlining the field and proposing what the field needed to accomplish. In his now-classic article, Wright outlined the needs for: (a) establishing a group identity through a formal organization, (b) developing professional training focusing on the specialty, and (c) constructing new bodies of knowledge through applied research. As will be seen in this chapter, these perceived needs led to concrete developments and the current status of the field.

As a foundation of pediatric psychology, Wright operationalized how the psychological professional might function in pediatric settings. This model included roles as a consultant and scientist-practitioner. Schofield (1969) elaborated these roles, suggesting that a more generic psychologist working in medical areas "would be a scientist-clinician . . . with a particular sophistication in physical illness, equipped to research and consult with regard to the psychological concomitants of physical disease" (p. 574). Wright, in a 1969 Pediatric Psychology newsletter article, attributed the growth in interest in pediatric psychology at the time to the "increasing importance being assigned to behavioral problems as part of good pediatric care, and to government programs, such as the children and youth projects, and Headstart, which were designed to offer both behavioral and medical care to needy children" (p. 1).

The history of the concept of pediatric psychology parallels the development of its organizational home in the Society of Pediatric Psychology. In 1967, George Albee, the president of the Division of Clinical Psychology of the American Psychological Association (APA), recommended that the Division's Section on Clinical Child Psychology (Section I) attend to the role of psychologists within pediatric settings. A committee was then appointed by Section I consisting of Logan Wright (as chair), Lee Salk, and Dorothea Ross. They sent letters of inquiry to chairs of pediatric departments of all U.S. medical schools. This correspondence revealed 250 names of interested psychologists in medical settings. These became the basis of the interest group the Society of Pediatric Psychology (SPP), which affiliated with the Section on Clinical Child Psychology in 1968 with 75 full members and 22 affiliate members.