Sponsorship Statement
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Target Audience
Rheumatologists in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Purpose and Learning Objectives
In rheumatoid arthritis as in other disease states, quantitative evaluation and documentation of disease status of patients provides critical data for clinical decision-making. Busy clinicians have found it difficult to collect the quantitative data in a format that is convenient to use in their practices. This issue of Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology has been designed to provide an overview of the theory and practice of quantitative patient assessment in rheumatic diseases.

If you read all of the articles in this issue, you should be able to describe and discuss:
1. Approaches to quantitative clinical assessment of patients with rheumatic diseases.
3. Indices for quantitative clinical assessment of specific rheumatic diseases.
4. Databases in standard clinical care of patients with rheumatoid arthritis in different countries.

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Acknowledgement of Commercial Support
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and Health Report Services express appreciation to the following companies for support of this educational activity by providing an unrestricted educational grant:

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