

Editorial

Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology turns 40: serving the rheumatology community between tradition and innovation

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Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology is 40 years old. In the foreword of 1983 announcing this new journal it was stated “the rheumatologist is more and more often confronted with diseases of a systemic nature with multiorgan involvement, which require a global evaluation of the patients and complex strategies of treatment. *Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology* (CER) is an attempt to meet the increasing demand for rheumatological literature and aim at fostering exchange between rheumatology and the other branches of internal medicine... The journal publishes original papers on clinical and experimental research pertinent to the rheumatic diseases, but CTD and other immune disorders are within the scope of the journal... CER is not the official organ of any scientific society.

Its full independency is warranted by and advisory board and board of editors in which colleagues from all over the world serve as members” (1).

In this respect, the editorial policy was discussed and approved initially in an annual meeting held in the editorial office (Fig. 1), and subsequently progressively using the most advanced instruments of modern technology.

Quarterly until 1988, this journal has then been bimonthly until now. Since 1999, however, it has published an increasing number of annual supplements. Thanks to the enthusiasm and skill of Ted Pincus, in the supplement series on “Contemporary topics in clinical rheumatology”, we had invited every year the most qualified experts to debate with scholarly reviews the hottest topics of modern rheumatol-



Fig. 1. An annual Editorial Board meeting in the 90s.

From the left: Paul E. Phillips, Haralampos M. Moutsopoulos, Stefano Bombardieri, Graham R.V. Hughes, Barbara M. Ansell[†], Giampiero Pasero, Raffaele Numo, Luisa Marconcini, Lisa Chien.

Competing interests: none declared.

Table I. List of Contemporary Topics in Clinical Rheumatology.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Guest Editors</i>
1999	Combination disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug therapy in rheumatoid arthritis	T. Pincus, F.C. Breedveld, P. Emery
2000	Bone mass in the rheumatic diseases	M. Mazzantini, N.E. Lane, T. Pincus
2001	Controversies in COX-2 inhibitor therapy	S.B. Abramson, D.E. Furst, M.C. Hochberg, C. Patrono
2002	Innovative therapies for the spondyloarthritides	J. Braun, D. van der Heijde, T. Pincus
2003	Early arthritis	T. Pincus, J.S. Smolen
2004	Benefit/risk of new drugs for rheumatoid arthritis	A. Kavanaugh, R.F. van Vollenhoven, T. Pincus
2005	Quantitative Clinical Assessment of Rheumatic Diseases	A. Kavanaugh, T. Pincus
2006	Remission in Rheumatic Diseases	D. Aletaha, J.S. Smolen, A. Kavanaugh, T. Pincus
2007	Quality of Care in Rheumatology: Opportunities and Challenges	K. Saag, A. Kavanaugh, J.S. Smolen, T. Pincus
2008	Mortality in Rheumatic Diseases	T. Sokka, T. Pincus
2009	A Systematic Comparison between Rheumatoid Arthritis and Ankylosing Spondylitis	J. Braun, T. Pincus, J. Sieper
2010	Methotrexate in rheumatic diseases	J. Braun, T. Pincus, B. Cronstein
2011	Low-dose Glucocorticoids in Rheumatic Diseases	J.W.J. Bijlsma, J. Braun, F. Buttgerit, M. Cutolo, T. Pincus
2012	Treat-to-target in Rheumatoid Arthritis: Clinical and Pharmacoeconomic Considerations	G. Turchetti, J.S. Smolen, A. Kavanaugh, J. Braun, T. Pincus
2013	Possible Discontinuation of Therapies in Inflammatory Rheumatic Diseases	T. Pincus, J. Braun, A. Kavanaugh, J.S. Smolen
2014	Optimisation of Rheumatic Disease Assessment in Clinical Trials, Clinical Care and Long-term Databases	T. Pincus, J. Braun, A. Kavanaugh, J.S. Smolen
2015	Psoriatic Arthritis	T. Pincus, J. Braun, A. Kavanaugh, J.S. Smolen
2016	Information Technology in Rheumatology	T. Pincus, J. Braun, A. Kavanaugh, A. Ravelli, J.S. Smolen
2017	Pain in Rheumatic Diseases	A.M. Malfait, T. Pincus
2018	Update on Imaging in Rheumatic Diseases	X. Baraliakos, J. Braun, P.G. Conaghan, M. Østergaard, T. Pincus
2019	New concepts in osteoarthritis	A.-M. Malfait, T. Pincus

Table II. List of annual monothematic supplements.

<i>Starting year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Guest Editors</i>
2001	Behçet's disease and familial Mediterranean fever	H. Yazici, E. Ben-Chetrit
2003	Vasculitis	W.L. Gross, C. Salvarani, L. Guillevin
2009	Scleroderma	S. Bombardieri
2009	Fibromyalgia and related syndromes	J.N. Ablin, W. Häuser, P. Sarzi-Puttini
2018	Sjögren's syndrome	M. Bombardieri, H. Bootsma, S. De Vita, T. Dörner, M. Ramos-Casals, A.G. Tzioufas
2022	Myositis	M. Dimachkie, P. Korsten, J. Schmidt, G. Siciliano

ogy (Table I), and this tradition has been only interrupted by the pandemic. Moreover, since 2001 we decided to focus our attention on emerging rare or overlooked diseases. In these supplements, we invited as guest editors and editorial board members some of the most leading experts in the field to publish an annual issue in which we grouped all the articles on these topics, either original material or invited editorial and/or reviews submitted to the journal, and processed using the same rigorous peer review system adopted by the journal (Table II). Over the years, these monothematic issues have enjoyed the increasing in-

terest of the scientific community and testified in many instances by the regular publication of the most important international meetings on these topics. In view of the solid success achieved over the years, starting in 2022, these 6 monothematic issues will be published as regular issues of the journal, which will thus become a monthly rather than bimonthly journal. Finally, special attention has been devoted to the continuous medical education (CME) and to update our readers on the latest novelties in our field. The "One Year in Reviews" represent the cutting edge of this endeavour and are a unique feature of this journal. They

now cover all the most relevant aspects of rheumatology (2-11). CER was started in the era of paper journals, but over the years has gradually incorporated all the continuous revolutions of the Internet technology, yet maintaining unvaried the initial template (Fig. 2). We continue to have confidence in the success of our editorial project, based on the combination of tradition and innovation. "..... If we fail, it will not be due to a lack of enthusiasm or good will. If we succeed, the credit will go to all those who have given their help and support for the initiative" (1).

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Fig. 2. Table of contents of the first issue of *Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology*.