Editorial

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

S. Bombardieri

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.

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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 interest 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).

Table I. List of Contemporary Topics in Clinical Rheumatology.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Starting year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Guest Editors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Behçet’s disease and familial Mediterranean fever</td>
<td>H. Yazıcı, E. Ben-Chetrit</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Vasculitis</td>
<td>W.L. Gross, C. Salvarani, L. Guillemin</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Scleroderma</td>
<td>S. Bombardieri</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Fibromyalgia and related syndromes</td>
<td>J.N. Ablin, W. Häuser, P. Sarzi-Puttini</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Sjögren’s syndrome</td>
<td>M. Bombardieri, H. Bootsmans, S. De Vita, T. Dörner, M. Ramos-Casals, A.G. Tzioufas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Myositis</td>
<td>M. Dimachkie, P. Korsten, J. Schmidt, G. Siciliano</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Foreword
G. Pasero, V. Pippitone

### Editorials
- C-reactive protein: the role of an ancient protein in modern rheumatology
  M.B. Peysy
- Hairy cell leukemia and arthritis
  G.R.V. Hughes

### Original articles
- Histocompatibility antigen combinations in rheumatoid arthritis
- Placebo therapy in rheumatoid arthritis
  G.B. Lussier, H. Sheppard, R.D. Winger
- Antibody antibodies in progressive systemic sclerosis
  M.T. Lubbo, A. Periasin, M.F. Kahn
- Vascular endothelial cell injury in progressive systemic sclerosis and other connective tissue diseases
  O. Meyer, T. Haim, A. Dreyf, I. Laniathan, A. Ryckewaert
- Enhancement of cryoprecipitation from hyperimmune serum: a comparative study in normals and in patients with connective tissue diseases
  E. Martin Molà, A.E. Ghassab, V.R. Joshi, B.M. Faid, C.B. Coodle, G.R.V. Hughes
- Inhibition of neutrophil phagocytosis and enzyme release by bromelaine
  E.J. Pizzio, R.A. Turner, L.P. Soderstrom, M. Paenitl, S.L. Foster, W.J. Treadway
- Immunologic abnormalities in idiopathic Raynaud’s phenomenon
  H.M. Moutsopoulos, S. Costantopoulos, L.H. Gerber, T.J. Lawley

### Brief papers
- Musculoskeletal manifestations of bacterial endocarditis
  Y. Lebo, M. Nashif
- C-reactive protein response in lupus polyarthropathy
  H.M. Moutsopoulos, A.K. Mavridis, N.C. Acriottis, P.C. Argegini
- Serum C-reactive protein in primary Sjögren’s syndrome
- Lymphocyte subpopulations in Kawasaki’s disease
  K. Shannon, C.W. Fink, G.R. Buchanan, M. Punaro, P. Széterey
- A study of plantar aggregation and adhesion in gout
  D.G. Macfarlane, R. Siade, P.A. Hopes, M.H. Hartog
- Validity and yield of a two-stage screening procedure for systemic lupus erythematosus
  M.C. Hoehberg, M.C. Shuldai, K.L. Funk, J.D. Sutton, M.B. Stevens

### Case reports
- Identical twins discordant for SLE
  A. Fitzgerald, A.S. Russel
- Enostroiphele fascitis: a mast cell disorder?
  A. Gahrodi, M. De Nicolò, G. Conzan, S. Cinti

### Review
- Interferon and autoimmunity
  H.M. Moutsopoulos, J.J. Hooks

### Personal view
- On the therapy of rheumatoid arthritis
  A.D. Steinberg

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

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### References