

Acronyms for the rheumatology literature: an update

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The Journal of Rheumatology
Turkish Journal of Rheumatology
(*Romatizma*)
Up-To-Date in Rheumatology,
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Abbreviations are constantly used in scientific literature, and in the past years particular attention has been focused by the Editors of Rheumatology journals to unify and standardise their use in order to try to avoid uncertainties and discrepancies.

In 1998, a first comprehensive list was published after deep discussion at the Rheumatology Editors Meeting held on the occasion of the 1997 ACR annual meeting (1) and, in 2005, the same list was amended and updated (2).

After three years, we felt that the time was ripe for a further revision, as the scientific field is rapidly changing and, at the end of 2008, we solicited the editors to re-examine the list and propose possible changes and updates. All these amendments were collected and discussed at the ACR meeting held in San Francisco in 2008 and a final agreement was reached in Philadelphia in 2009. The final list of acronyms is now posted on the website of *Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology* (<http://www.clinexprheumatol.org/acronyms.asp>), and all the main rheumatology journals can share this link. Some of the changes introduced were made only for unification purposes, but new acronyms have also been added, such as ACPA for “anti-citrullinated antibodies” or DAS for “disease activity score”. Some of the new acronyms were not strictly rheumatological, such as miRNA for “microRNA”, but we proposed to add them because we felt that they identify items that could have influence in rheumatologic research in the near future. Besides new entries, some acronyms were deleted with broad agreement, such as RAHA for “rheumatoid arthritis hemagglutination assay”. The continuous updating of this list demonstrates that the field of rheumatology is highly dynamic, and that all the Editors make a great effort to ensure that this resource is not only shared to the highest degree, but that it is also updated as often as possible.

The compilation of this new updated list has been the expression of a collective work in progress, and we would like to extend to our readers the possibility of suggesting other potential changes.

References

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2. CAPONI L, BOMBARDIERI S: Acronyms for the rheumatology literature. *Clin Exp Rheumatol* 2005; 23: 1.