

Welcome *Autoimmunity Highlights*

Massimo Donnini

© Springer-Verlag 2010

We welcome the first issue of *Autoimmunity Highlights*, an English-language, peer-reviewed journal which publishes papers related to the diverse aspects of autoimmunity. The aim of *Autoimmunity Highlights* is to be a bridge between the clinic, the laboratory and the specialists involved in the complex world of autoimmunity diagnosis and therapy. This inaugural issue is the culmination of years of commitment to scientific information. Our intention in creating the journal is to support physicians by providing a strong contribution to the dissemination of scientific information on autoimmune diseases. We are proud of our already excellent reputation as an effective and efficient partner in the dissemination of scientific information, and with this journal we aim to reach a higher level of maturity in our standard of communication. To this end we are supporting its publication with an unrestricted grant with no editorial control in order to offer an

unbiased international forum to those who dedicate their lives to the study of autoimmunity. This journal will improve the international scientific dialogue in this complex and global field of medicine.

It is indeed well known that autoimmune diseases, which show so much variation and so many differences, affect about 10% of the world population, and this percentage is certainly set to increase in the future. The reasons for this incremental trend are still unclear, although they seem to be correlated with the improved social, hygienic and economic standard of living of the overall world population.

Autoimmune diseases may involve any part of the body, have a multifactorial aetiopathogenesis caused by the interaction of several environmental factors with a genetic predisposition, and have a myriad of clinical manifestations, all of which make diagnosis an extremely difficult task. At the same time the suffering of the patients is emphasized by the frequently chronic character of their disease and by the need to undergo usually lengthy and physically demanding therapies, which are not exempt from collateral effects.

These are the reasons why Menarini believes deeply in the importance of giving practitioners an efficient means for the dissemination of scientific information, a tool with which they can exchange views and read up on the latest advances and discoveries in the field of autoimmune diseases. This knowledge will be spread through reviews, original articles, case reports, short communications, editorials, and from an international perspective the development of autoimmunity guidelines. Because of the multidisciplinary character of autoimmunity, articles will focus on a wide variety of topics: pathogenesis, immunology, genetics, molecular biology, diagnostic autoantibody tests, epidemiology, pathophysiology and

M. Donnini
Autoimmunity International Product Manager
A. Menarini Diagnostics

treatment. Special, but not exclusive, attention will be given to evolving areas such as genetics, molecular biology, genomics and proteomics, point-of-care testing (POCT), information technology and communication (ITC) and health economics.

Autoimmunity Highlights will strive to publish on a wide variety of pertinent, unbiased topics in order to satisfy the widespread hunger for knowledge in this field. Its Scientific Editorial Board is made up of a large number of internationally recognized scientists who have expertise in the different fields of autoimmune pathology, and will ensure independence, a high level of quality in the work presented, and editorial integrity. Articles will contribute to the collection and assembly of data and will report discoveries and important innovations in techniques: we aim to spread what is known and to be the first with the news. *Autoimmunity Highlights* aims to become the voice of scientists in the field and a forum for international debate, and these aims reflect the two prin-

cipal objectives pursued by Menarini: research and internationalization.

Over more than 30 years Menarini Diagnostics has expanded and grown, seeking to go above and beyond immediate geographical barriers to open up new frontiers in the world of diagnostics. We have always put our collective knowledge and know-how at the service of both health-care professionals and patients and have sought the global dissemination of the benefits that have resulted from decades of effort and experience. Furthermore, we have always supported the work of laboratory clinicians by providing them with useful services and by assisting them with excellent and culturally prepared specialists.

For all the above reasons, it is with great pleasure that the Menarini Group and Menarini Diagnostics welcome this new journal *Autoimmunity Highlights*. We are sure that it will represent an invaluable opportunity for cultural exchange and debate among specialists in several fields who are joined by their interest in autoimmune diseases.