

PREFACE

Marjolein Drent is appointed as Professor of interstitial lung diseases (ild) at the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences (FHML) of the University of Maastricht (UM), the Netherlands. Her oration was entitled: "Breathtaking inspirations..." Her clinical work and research in Hospital Gelderse Vallei, Ede, focuses on ild, translational medicine and e-health. She is involved in many international organizations, several editorial boards and patient associations. She is the current president-elect of the WASOG. She was selected as the leading physician of 2011 by her colleague Dutch pulmonologists. She has (co-) authored over 200 papers and book chapters. She is chair of the ild care foundation. email: m.drent@maastrichtuniversity.nl



The first issue of ild care today was published in November 2008. The aim of this journal is to inspire people working with patients with diffuse interstitial lung diseases (ild) to reflect on other and more or less unusual incidences and think about exposure to things they may not previously have considered as causative agents. We have now reached the tenth edition. In order to give major international experts an opportunity to contribute to this jubilee issue, this special edition is in English.

The editorial is written by Professor Ulrich Costabel, past president of World Association of Sarcoidosis and Other Granulomatous Disorders (WASOG) and dedicated to ild. He raises the question: 'Treatment options for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: ever changing?' There is a clear unmet need for improved therapy. An optimal drug or combination of drugs able to stabilize the disease permanently is lacking, unfortunately.

At the age of eleven, Esther Crombag went completely blind within less than 48 hours. From her first word in Braille she progressed to graduating in law. In the Spring of 2011, her book 'Blind Faith' was published. In this book, she tells her story of perseverance and daring to have faith. In addition, Esther is a top sportswoman. Recently, her condition deteriorated unexpectedly. She was diagnosed with sarcoidosis. That's all there was too it and many pieces of the puzzle fell into place.

Professor Antony Cerami, currently Boerhaave Professor of Medicine at Leiden University in the Netherlands, stresses that the study of failures can give birth to new insights that can be explored and can have important consequences. Tumour necrosis factor (TNF) is an important mediator of inflammation in many inflammatory diseases and cause severe

damage. In 1980, with Masanubu Kawakami, he described the use of antibodies to TNF as an anti-inflammatory therapy. Vitamin D has been considered as an important environmental factor in modulating innate immunity. Professor Om P. Sharma, emeritus president of the WASOG describes the possible role of vitamin D in sarcoidosis. It is not known whether Vitamin D will prevent or change the course of sarcoidosis. What is known, however, is that symptoms of vitamin D deficiency resemble many of the systemic manifestations of sarcoidosis.

At the 10th WASOG meeting held last year in Maastricht, Professor Roland M. Du Bois was invited to give the first Dr. Gerry James lecture. His presentation was entitled: 'Is Sarcoidosis ready for personalised medicine?' Appropriate multidisciplinary management is mandatory for this often elusive multisystem disorder. The indications for treatment for the individual patient depend on many factors. Moreover, careful consideration also needs to be given to the likely benefits of any therapy, set against the risk of adverse effects. Professor Aalt Bast, Professor of Human Toxicology and chair of the Department of Toxicology at the University of Maastricht, raises a very interesting question: 'Treatment options in ild: food or pharma?' Towards the end of the 20th century, many effective drugs were developed to treat a wide variety of diseases. Unfortunately, pharmaceutical treatment of ild did not progress. In the case of ild, inflammation and oxidative stress are associated and mutually aggravating. Novel strategies are needed to appraise clinically the health benefits of drugs as well as dietary compounds in ild.

*I hope you enjoy reading these contributions,
Professor Marjolein Drent*