Inflammatory Intestinal Diseases: Why Do We Need Another Gastroenterology Journal?

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We are very pleased, happy, and proud to provide you with the first issue of *Inflammatory Intestinal Diseases*, a new journal in the field of gastroenterology and intestinal pathophysiology. Why do we think that another journal should be published in an era in which a multitude of on-line journals have been founded in recent years and the number of publications reaches new records every year?

We think that this is well justified by the fact that *Inflammatory Intestinal Diseases* is based on an innovative and novel concept, aiming to provide a platform for Asian and Western research and to foster and support communication and the exchange of knowledge. The journal features special articles prepared by two authors from the East and West, covering genetics, epidemiology, diagnostic methods, and treatment options of a disease, and includes a comparison of the two sets of data from the different areas.

Inflammatory Intestinal Diseases will bring the most current information, both in clinical and basic sciences,

to all physicians caring for patients with inflammatory intestinal diseases. These diseases, especially inflammatory bowel disease, are still increasing in incidence and prevalence in the Western world, and there is an even more dramatic rise in the Asian/Pacific area. The factors responsible for this increase in the Asian/Pacific area are equally important for an understanding of disease pathogenesis in the Western world. A better exchange of the research results on inflammatory intestinal diseases between the East and the West is necessary, and no existing journal so far reflects this necessity. The intention to connect the two research areas will also be represented by the members of the Editorial Board of *Inflammatory Intestinal Diseases*.

Inflammatory Intestinal Diseases further aims to reduce the separation into clinical and basic science in the field of inflammatory intestinal diseases. It will improve the exchange of knowledge between the Asian/Pacific area and North America and Europe on the one hand,

and, on the other hand, improve the exchange of information between hepatology, inflammatory bowel diseases, celiac disease, irritable bowel syndrome, and other inflammatory diseases of the intestinal tract; fields that have been separated by very specific journals in recent years with a lack of information and concept exchange. This is a significant deficit as diseases do not care about these separations, e.g. IgG4-mediated auto-inflammatory processes can be found in the pancreas, liver, bile duct system, and lymphatic system in the gut.

In the future, we will find that more diseases which are partially associated with environmental conditions exist. The comparison of these relevant environmental conditions between the Asian/Pacific and Western area of the world will also be a focus of the new journal.

High-quality reviews that highlight the most recent developments are of high interest to the journal. On the other hand, a special focus will be placed on publications that show collaborations/interactions between the Asian/Pacific area and North America/Europe. Thirdly, the journal will concentrate on the pathophysiology of inflammatory intestinal diseases that is not specific to one disease. Basic mechanisms that are relevant for different inflammatory intestinal diseases will be of high relevance. One example may be eosinophilic esophagitis: mechanisms that are relevant for eosinophilic esophagitis may also be relevant for eosinophilic inflammation of the small and large intestines.

In summary, *Inflammatory Intestinal Diseases* will be a peer-reviewed journal that aims for high-quality articles which provide important insights into the pathomechanisms and therapies of inflammatory intestinal diseases. It intends to improve the communication between researchers from different areas, geographically as well as with respect to specialization. Therefore, we feel that the focus of *Inflammatory Intestinal Diseases* fills a gap that will guarantee the success of this journal.

In the first issue, we have concentrated on diseases of the liver and the gut to show overlapping concepts in hepatology and 'luminal gastroenterology'. Key opinion leaders in their respective field have contributed. The following articles are written each by a Western and Asian expert: 'Does the intestinal microbiota explain differences in the epidemiology of liver disease between East and West?' [1]; 'Ulcerative colitis with and without primary sclerosis cholangitis – two different diseases?' [2]; 'Cytomegalovirus colitis, cytomegalovirus hepatitis and systemic cytomegalovirus infection: common features and differences' [3]; 'Changes of intestinal functions in liver cirrhosis' [4], and 'Intestinal fibrosis and liver fibrosis: consequences of chronic inflammation or independent pathophysiology?' [5].

We hope that our integrative concept and new journal are well perceived and provide some additive impact in the field of gastroenterology.

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References

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