

## From the editor's desk...

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Eighty-seven years ago, in 1933, our first national gastroenterology Journal "*Le Journal Belge de Gastro-Entérologie*" was founded thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of its pioneer Editor-in-Chief Georges Brohée (1). After the war, the Journal was relaunched under its current name "*Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica*" (1). In 2020, this is now the eighty-third volume of *Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica* which is still our leading national Journal in gastroenterology, hepatology, clinical nutrition and digestive oncology. Today, it is even more the case as all scientific Belgian societies (listed on the back cover) implicated in our Journal reinforce their collaboration and their support to the Journal, mainly by keeping active Associate Editors in our editorial team but also by supporting us in the printing expenses of the editions and the editorial office's administrative management costs.

For this hard work, *Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica*'s team is composed of 14 reputed Associate Editors (listed on the inside front cover) who guarantee the evaluation process of submitted manuscripts and bring their expertise in order to keep the quality of our Journal (2) : Professor Marianna Arvanitakis (Université Libre de Bruxelles), Professor Tom Moreels (Université catholique de Louvain), Professor Peter Stärkel (Université catholique de Louvain), Professor Hannah van Malenstein (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), Professor Stéphanie Laurent (Ghent University), Professor Karen Geboes (Ghent University), Professor Harald Peeters (Ghent University), Dr Pieter Dewint (AZ Maria Middelaers Ghent and University of Antwerp), Professor Myriam Van Winckel (Ghent University), Dr Karolien Dams (University of Antwerp), Dr Ruffin Ntouda (Université Libre de Bruxelles), Professor Anne Jouret-Mourin (Université catholique de Louvain), Professor Heiko De Schepper (University of Antwerp) and Dr Géraldine Dahlqvist (Université catholique de Louvain). Indeed, we are also very happy and honoured to introduce a new national scientific society : the Belgian Liver and Intestine Committee (BeLIAC) Scientific Advisory committee of the Belgian Transplantation Society (BTS). We warmly thank the President of the BeLIAC, Professor Jacques Pirenne and Dr Géraldine Dahlqvist, the new Associate Editor for this recent collaboration, important

for the expertise of our editorial team in surgery, end-stage liver disease and transplantation. The Journal is also supported by a dedicated secretary, in charge of the editorial office's administrative tasks since 2008, Mrs. Mia Persoons. We warmly thank our Associate Editors and our secretary for their commitment and contribution to the Journal. And last, but not least, we also thank all clinicians and scientists listed in this issue who accepted to review the papers in 2019.

The number of articles submitted by the medical community, from Belgium as well as from many countries worldwide, is still high. Indeed, in 2019, 342 manuscripts were submitted of which 17% from Belgian authors. The quest for quality remains a topical question (2) : of those 342 manuscripts submitted, 79 were or will be published, which means an acceptance rate of 23 %. Congratulations to Thais Rousseff who submitted the best original work performed in Belgium published in our Journal in 2019 (3). She will receive this award during the remittance ceremony hosted by the *Belgian Week of Gastroenterology* on Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Of course, we are also very grateful to the *Belgian Week of Gastroenterology* (BWGE) and their two current scientific coordinators: Professor Sven Francque and Professor Isabelle Colle. Since the first BWGE, which occurred in Liège in 1989, a warm and scientific collaboration exists with our Journal (4). The BWGE organization is responsible for the financial support of this first issue of *Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica*. In return, you can find all the accepted abstracts of the *Belgian Week of Gastroenterology* which are published in this opening issue of the year and can thus officially be referred in scientific publications (1).

Finally, we also thank our sponsors and in particular our major sponsors who provide the essential financial support in order to keep the traditionally important paper version of our journal (5). Their support also provided us possibilities towards an improved digital content (new website online around March 2020: [www.ageb.be](http://www.ageb.be) linking to : [www.acta-gastroenterologica.be](http://www.acta-gastroenterologica.be)), necessary in our daily practice and important for the access, the citations of our papers and the impact factor of our Journal (5).

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Our goal is to reinforce the links between all Belgian scientific societies implicated in gastroenterology and hepatology and to offer those societies the possibility to increase the visibility and the dissemination of their scientific knowledge. As shown in this current issue, the Journal represents an important platform for scientific work in Belgium, clinical research results, reviews and viewpoints from eminent colleagues and societies on a particular gastroenterology medical situation.

As the Editor-in-Chief and Deputy Editor of this Journal, we are honoured to introduce the first issue of 2020, with a selection of highlights. Catherine Reenaers (Université de Liège) and Sofie Coenen (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) together with their colleagues, published nice Belgian studies in inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD): the first assessed effectiveness of vedolizumab in a Belgian real-life cohort of IBD patients (6) and the second describes the results of a questionnaire to measure perceived quality of care in IBD patients (7). Xavier Verhelst (Ghent University) also provided the results of a study on hepatitis C patients follow up (8). Hélène Dano (Université catholique de Louvain) and Frederik Temmerman (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) wrote outstanding expert points of view on the management of endoscopically excised colorectal polyps (based on the ideal pathology report) (9) as well as on the management of encephalopathy in patients with shunts (10). Quirine Van Pelt (Katholiek Universiteit Leuven) and Olivier De Ronde (Université catholique de Louvain) published interesting case series on posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome due to the treatment of colorectal cancer (11) and on collagenous gastritis (12).

We wish you an interesting reading of this issue and an enthralling *Belgian Week of Gastroenterology*.

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest regarding this manuscript.

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