

Dear Thyroidologists,

As the new Editor Hot Thyroidology (HT), I want to give some information on the present and future of the official online journal of ETA.

Firstly, I have to thank Merck for the financial help and the previous Editors (George Henneman and Albert Burger) who created and raised the interest of the journal. In particular, the Editorial Board that ended the work by the last month of 2007 has published an increasing number of excellent "At the Cutting Edge" Editorials by experts in the different sections of Thyroidology. For this, we all have to thank mainly Dr Albert Burger for his efforts during his mandate as Chief Editor.

I also thank the Executive Committee for the reliance on my person and on the new Editorial Board and we all guarantee to make all efforts to maintain and possibly raise the impact of the e-journal of our Association and prepare the required changes in order to face future challenges. The new Editorial Board (EB) has undergone a large renewal and is now constituted by Clara Alvarez (Spain, Basic Associate Editor), Furio Pacini (Italy, Clinical Associate Editor), Albert Burger (CH, Senior Editor), by the following ETA members: Georg Brabant (UK, Clinical), Domenico Salvatore (Italy, Mixed), Dagmar Fuhrer (Germany, Mixed), Josè Moreno (Netherlands, Basic) and by 3 representative members of the sister societies (SY Cheng, ATA; S Yamashita, AOTA; G Medeiros-Neto, LATS). In these months, we have been successful in having an official ATA member appointed to our Editorial Board. For this, I have to thank the help given on this matter by the ATA President, Dr Rebecca Bahn. Thanks to the agreements reached with the other societies, information on novel manuscripts published in Hot Thyroidology will now rapidly reach by email all Thyroidologists around the world.

Other changes will be appreciated as soon as new manuscripts will be available on the website. A template with the logos of ETA, Merck and HT has been created in order to have a more characteristic presentation of the articles. From now on, articles will be submitted by mail at the following address Hot-Thy-Editor@live.it. In accord with the ETA Executive Committee we decided to expand the categories of the articles accepted by Hot Thyroidology.

We will now accept:

- Editorials or comments/opinions on new findings or hot topics or controversies in the field of Thyroidology (either invited or self-submitted)
- Mini-reviews (either invited or self-submitted)
- Case Reports of particular interest giving insights on the diagnosis or management of thyroid diseases (self-submitted)
- Mutation-in-brief: reports of novel gene variants that may be involved in thyroid diseases (self-submitted).

All manuscripts should be prepared according to the Instructions to Authors that we have prepared. Novel instructions and template are available on our website.

All manuscript will be assigned to a member of the Editorial Board that will act as Reviewing Editor and will take care of all the revision process in 2-4 weeks. The Editor will revise the paper and ask the opinion of experts in the field of the submitted article, as appropriate. The contribution of the Reviewing Editor will be acknowledged on the title page of the revised manuscript.

Finally, as reported in the first ETA newsletter of 2008, the Editorial Board has been committed to build a new dimension for our e-journal. For this reason a new Hot Thyroidology Board has been created by the Executive Committee to monitor the progression of the work of the EB. Possible future developments include agreements with other "Thyroid websites" such as "Thyroid Disease Manager" and/or the registration of Hot Thyroidology among the scientific journals with international citations indices and impact factor. In these directions, efforts are being made for the preparation of the journal statute and copyright. This goal is particularly hard to be reached in view of the numerous competitors.

But, thanks to the excellent level of the recent publications, at present it is not so rare to find Authors citing among their references articles appeared in Hot Thyroidology. Obviously, all these goals cannot be reached without the support of all ETA members. Therefore, a questionnaire aiming to catch the feelings of the Association on the Hot Thyroidology matter will soon be prepared and submitted hopefully on the occasion of the next 2008 Annual Meeting in Thessaloniki.

We warmly invite you all to visit the website (www.hotthyroidology.com) and to take contact and submit new articles to Hot Thyroidology at the following address: Hot-Thy-Editor@live.it.

Best wishes to all of you!

Luca Persani
Chief Editor
Hot Thyroidology