

Garry Walsh

Asthmatic and Allergic Inflammation
Group, School of Medicine,
University of Aberdeen, UK

Welcome to the third issue of *Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management*. As mentioned in my editorial to the first issue, the journal aims to publish original research and review articles on the evidence and opinion behind new and existing therapies. Thus, the remit of *Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management* will of necessity be a broad one, and this issue vividly illustrates this. First, there are four excellent review articles on diverse but important areas. In the opening paper, Lacy and colleagues have provided a comprehensive review of how the noninvasive airway sampling technique of sputum induction may assist in the diagnosis and management of obstructive airway diseases. This is followed by reviews of adverse drug reporting by pharmacists in New Zealand and an update on current thinking on the vital and challenging area of improving patient compliance. The reviews are concluded by an overview of the state of play regarding the development of inhibitors of selectin function for novel treatment of inflammatory disorders of the skin. This is an intriguing area with relevance for all inflammatory conditions as selectins mediate the earliest events controlling leukocyte extravasation into the tissues. The original research papers truly encompass a broad church covering areas as varied as the influence of application site and formulation on skin penetration by sunscreens; a general practitioner-based survey of how lifestyle changes can facilitate the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease; liver damage and gastrointestinal bleeding associated with neuroleptic malignant syndrome; and examination of one aspect of the mechanisms by which thalidomide exerts its therapeutic effect in myeloma. The final paper is a very interesting study that examines the absence of toll-like receptor (TLR)-4 gene polymorphisms in Singaporean Chinese. This is important as the literature on associations between TLR4 polymorphisms and asthma/allergy are not consistent, and this paper suggests that ethnicity is an issue for studies of this nature.

