

President: Philippe Mura *general practitioner*

ASSOCIATION MIEUX PRESCRIRE

"To work, in all independence, in favour of quality healthcare, first and foremost in the interest of patients (...)" (Article 1 of the Association Mieux Prescrire bylaws).

Prescrire International is a bimonthly journal of selected texts translated from the French journal *Prescrire*.

Prescrire is published monthly by Association Mieux Prescrire, a non-profit continuing education organisation (N° 11 711 075) under the French law of 1901. Its board members are: Philippe Mura (President); Pierre Chirac (Vice President); Hubert Ghestem (Treasurer); Antoine Grandvillain (Deputy Treasurer); Jean-François Audouard (General Secretary); Clarisse Briand (Deputy General Secretary).

Executive Committee: Abdelhakim Berrah; Jérôme Robert; Bruno Toussaint

Executive Assistant: Florence Vandeveld

Executive Secretary: Martine Divet

Development: Fabrice Mailly assisted by Nolwenn Clec'h, Bernardin Dilou and Mélody Royère; Houria Farhi (Algeria)

Human Resources: Valentine de Belleroche

Accounts: Tanguy Goblet assisted by Martine Kowanski
Administration, Reception, Mail Room: Jean-Pierre Bargin, with Françoise Amani, Séverine Bégnès, Astou Badji and Gérard Pierre

Circulation: Christine Barraud

Subscription department: Corinne Kramer assisted by Stéphanie Traca and Aleksandra Debon - **Continuing education logistics:** Aleksandra Debon; Huynh Dieu Nguyen; Cécile Gai; Patricia Médioni

Subscriber correspondence: Jacques Juillard, Annie Péresse, Cécile Poilpré, assisted by Hélène Declercq and Christelle Sissokho

Information Technology: Xavier Martin-Legeay, with Bilog, Damien Donnet, Iago, SamuInformatique

Copyright Prescrire

Registered address: 83, bd Voltaire 75011 Paris France
Tel.: (33)(0)1 49 23 72 80 - Fax : (33)(0)1 48 07 87 32

E-mail: contact@prescrire.org

Postal address: Prescrire - 83, bd Voltaire

75558 PARIS CEDEX 11 - FRANCE

All rights reserved. Contents may not be reproduced, except by individual subscribers for limited distribution, in small quantities, for solely non-commercial purposes.

All other uses: permission must be obtained in writing from the publisher.

DESIGN

Art Director: Martine Talent

LAYOUT: Nathalie Froment assisted by Véronique Beauzel, Catherine Marriette, Sandrine Mourthé, Sandrine Praud and Geneviève Lamagdelaine

Multimedia layout: Catherine Marriette

Printing: Les Ateliers réunis - France

CORRECTION

In the article dealing with *pantoprazole* without a prescription (February issue page 250) we wrongly wrote "H2 receptor agonists" instead of "**H2 receptor antagonists**". Thanks to Pijus Sarkar (drug bulletin 'Bodhi', India) for identifying the error.



Prescrire is a founder and member of ISDB, a network of independent drug bulletins which aims to promote international exchange of quality information on drugs and therapeutics.
Website: <http://isdbweb.org>

EDITORIAL STAFF

Members of the Prescrire Editorial Staff sign a yearly declaration of absence of conflicts of interest, in accordance with Prescrire's "Non merci..." Charter. Members are free from any interest contrary to Association Mieux Prescrire's objectives (the Charter and the Declaration are available online at www.prescrire.org).

Publishing reliable reviews that are easy to use and adapted to readers' needs depends upon complex editorial procedures, all initiated and overseen by the members of Prescrire's Editorial Staff. They define editorial goals. They oversee documentary

research, the writing and rewriting of texts, and review by a panel of outside experts (medical specialists, methodologists, representatives of Prescrire's subscriber base...). They organise internal and external quality control procedures, and edit the final copy. Every draft is submitted, before publication, to a large number of outside reviewers.

Details on how Prescrire's content is produced are available online at the Prescrire in English website (www.english-prescrire.org); see the "About Prescrire" section, "How we work".

PRESCRIRE INTERNATIONAL

Managing Editor: Christophe Kopp *general practitioner*

Coordinating Editor: Christine Badiane

Sub Editor: Karen Albrecht

Translators: David Young, Helen Geneviev, Ros Schwartz

Consultants: Judith Mintzes, Andrea Tarr

Subscription department: Corinne Kramer

PRESCRIRE

Editorial Director: Bruno Toussaint MD with José Aguilar MD, Philippe Mura *general practitioner*, Philippe Schilliger MD

Section Editors:

• **Brain-teaser:** José Aguilar MD • **New products:** Séverine Carré-Pétraud *pharmacist*; Sébastien Hardy *pharmacist*; Gilles Mignot *pharmacologist* • **Adverse effects:** Elisabeth Veyriac *pharmacologist* • **Reviews:** Marc Legrelle *diabetologist*; Jean-Pierre Noiry *general practitioner*; Jérôme Sclafer *general practitioner* • **Key messages:** Philippe Mura *general practitioner* and Céline Martin *pharmacist* • **Information to Patients:** Jean Doubovetzky *general practitioner* • **Health and society:** Pierre Chirac *pharmacist*; Bénédicte Connault MD • **Book review:** Jacques Juillard MD • **Guideline watch:** Jean-Pierre Noiry *general practitioner* • **Reader's test:** Christian Bouret *general practitioner* • **Take it easy:** Christophe Kopp *general practitioner* • **Deciphering medical articles:** Marc Legrelle *diabetes specialist* • **Forum:** Odile Burrus *nurse* • **Questions/Answers:** Cécile Poilpré *pharmacist* • **Prescribe electronic media:** Hélène Merlin *pharmacist*

Information search:

• **Companies and agencies:** Olivier Huyghe *pharmacist* assisted by Anne Americh *pharmacist*, Sophie Ginolhac *pharmacist*, Laurence Le Quang Trieu *pharmacist*, Cécile Loubeyre-Unique *pharmacist*, Samia Nabi *pharmacist*; assisted by Julie Gouzil • **Literature search:** Marine Barillot, Dominique Broclain, Cécile Loubeyre-Unique, Minata Traoré; assisted by Julie Gouzil, Nathalie Hayes, Hortense Sanon

Production Editor: Christine Badiane

Senior Editors: Catherine Alexandre MD; Anne Americh *pharmacist*; Isabelle Breton MD; Clarisse Briand *health economist*; Dominique Broclain MD-*sociologist*; Jean Bruneton *pharmacognosy specialist*; Catherine Dumont *paediatrician*; Aldo Fari *biologist*; Béatrice Guyard-Boileau *gynaecologist-obstetrician*; Olivier Huyghe *pharmacist*; Laurence Le Quang Trieu *pharmacist*; Jeanne Maritoux *pharmacist*; Céline Martin *pharmacist*; Marie-Anne Mengest *journalist*; Chantal Oliéric *pharmacist*; Étienne Schmitt *pharmacist*
Junior Editors: Laurence Aimard *civil engineer*; Marie Babin *biologist*; Abdelhakim Berrah *economist*; Éric

Cerqueira *pharmacist*; Florence Chapelle *pharmacist*; Nina Degrell *pharmacist*; Houria Farhi MD; Nathalie François-Moliner *gynaecologist*; Pierre Frouard *general practitioner*; Hubert Ghestem *pharmacist*; Sophie Ginolhac *pharmacist*; Marie-France Gonzalvez *pharmacist*; Antoine Grandvillain *pharmacist*; Dörte Gunther *geriatrician*; Fabienne Jourdan *emergency care*; Cécile Loubeyre-Unique *pharmacist*; Nadjet Loumi *pharmacologist*; Odile Martinet *geriatrician*; Denis Millières-Lacroix *general practitioner*; Laure Misrahi *pharmacist*; Évelyne Mouret *pharmacist*; Clotilde Nanga *pharmacist*; Angelina Nguyen-Tramond MD; Ann Pariente *general practitioner*; Sophie Pilon *pharmacist*; Cécile Poilpré *pharmacist*; Elisabeth Rivollier *general practitioner*; Didier Rod MD; Céline Roussel *pharmacist*; Bernard Rueff MD; Bernard Topuz MD; Florence Vandeveld *pharmacist*; Maryse Véron *nurse*.

Art and Photo Editor: Olivier Huyghe

Illustrations: José David; Léa Lord; Alain Savino

Packaging working group: Olivier Huyghe and Samia Nabi

Indexing: Marie Babin; Hélène Merlin with Mélanie Hardy and Sandrine Parmentier

Projects: Mireille Didier; Samia Nabi; Didier Rod; Marianne Samuelson

Quality control: Philippe Adrien; Catherine Alexandre; Marie Babin; Karine Bégnaud; Odile Burrus; Sophie Ginolhac; Jeanne Maritoux; Hélène Merlin; Laure Misrahi; Evelyne Mouret; Sophie Pilon; Céline Roussel
Proofreading: Marie-Paule Baron; Jeanne Maritoux; Denis Millières-Lacroix; Evelyne Mouret; Annie Péresse; Céline Roussel

Reviewers' panels: Laure Misrahi

For Belgium and Switzerland: Cécile Poilpré with Marie-Louise Bouffloux, Dominique Leyh (Agence fédérale des médicaments et des produits de santé - département Bon usage des médicaments), and Doris Ballinari, Martine Ruggli (pharmaSuisse, Société suisse des pharmaciens)

Translations "Assessment Elsewhere": Marie-Andrée Bernard, Marja Liisa Jérôme, Pierre Klotz, Karin Raton
Editorial Office: Christelle Sissokho and Hélène Declercq

Prescribe electronic media: Hélène Merlin with Sandrine Parmentier

Website: Philippe Schilliger with Karen Albrecht

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Pedagogical adviser: Philippe Schilliger • **Instructors:** Christian Bouret; Frédérique Digonnet; Marie-France Gonzalvez; Jacques Juillard; Odile Martinet; Hélène Merlin; Étienne Schmitt; Maryse Véron • **Quality control:** Hélène Merlin • **Evaluation:** Michel Coletti; Dominique Broclain; Florence Vandeveld • **Promotion:** Pierre Atlan

REVIEW PANEL: The following persons reviewed the articles, which were first published in Prescrire then translated for this issue of Prescrire International:

Stéphane Antignac (hospital pharmacy); Guillaume Babin (medical student); Françoise Bacle (general practice); Claude Beauvillain de Montreuil (ENT); Pierre Bégue (paediatrics); Hervé Berche (general practice); Olivier Bismuth (general practice); Michel Boiret (general practice); Alain Bottéro (psychiatry); Alain Bourmeau (family planning); Patrick Briant (psychiatry); Aude Caria (psychology); Françoise Casadebaig (Inserm U513); Yves Castaing (intensive care); Jean-Didier Cavallo (infectious disease); Pierre Chevalier (INAMI - Belgium); Marc Chobert (general practice); Olivier Chosidow (dermatology); Pierre Claustre (community pharmacy); Michel Clerel (aeronautics medicine); Philippe Colombat (haematology); Didier Cosserat (general practice); Monique Danière (general practice); Suzanne Dat (gynaecology); Jean-Marie Decazes (infectious disease); Dominique Devise (school nurse); Alain Didier (pneumology); Claude Demange (hospital pharmacy); Corinne Denis (pharmacy); Hervé Douine (general practice); Edith Dufay (hospital pharmacy); Emmanuel Dumont (cardiology); Caroline Dupont (infectious disease); Jean-Christophe Ede (general practice); Emmanuelle Espieussat (community pharmacy); Waly Fager (hospital pharmacy); Joëlle Faucher-Grassin (hospital pharmacy); Henri Foulques (gynaecology surgery); Michel Galinier (cardiology); Soisick Galmiche (general practice); Pierre Gargadennec (sports medicine); Sylvie-Georgina Gatt (pharmacy); Maud Gelly (family planning); Béatrice Georget-Tard (general practice); Christine Gintz (psychiatry); André Gorins (senology); Cécile Goujard (internal practice); Bernard Grenier (pediatrics); Constant Houssou (psychiatry); Christian Jamin (gynecology-obstetrics); Michel Jehaes (general practice-Belgium); Annie-Pierre Jonville-Bera (pharmacology); Francis Julia (orthopedic surgery); Marie-Christine Julien (gynecology-obstetrics); Viviane Kovess-Masfety (psychiatry); Martine Lalande (general practice); Yves Lambert (anaesthesiology); Georges Laroche (ophthalmology); Robert Laurent (general practice); Christian Layole (community pharmacy); Frédéric Léal (general practice); Bénédicte Lebrun-Vignes (pharmacology); Jacques Ledoux (community pharmacy); Jean-Marie Le

Gall (AIDES); Stéphane Le Gratiot (community pharmacy); Jean-Pierre Leilouche (paediatrics); Hervé Le Nahour (cardiology); Gilles Lesieur (ophthalmology); Daniel Levy-Brühl (epidemiology); Bénédicte Lewden-Bernadac (community pharmacy); Francisque Leynadier (allergology); Claudie Locquet (general practice); Eric Maczyta (psychiatrist); Nicole Manderieux (ophthalmology); Eric Marchesseau (general practice); Ludovic Martin (dermatology); Alexandre Merlo (general practice); Bernard Mesle (general practice); François Meuret (general practice); Yann Mikaeloff (paediatrics); Noël Milpied (haematology); Sophie Morau-Crépeaux (DDASS); Jean-Louis Montastruc (pharmacology); Marion Montastruc (haematology); Patrice Morel (dermatology); Didier Morère (community pharmacy); Bruno Mortemousse (ophthalmology); Christine Noiry-Vacle (general practice); Yves Nouaille (pharmacovigilance); Claire Papin-Puren (pharmacy); Jean-François Paqueriaud (general practice); Laure Peyro Saint-Paul (pharmacovigilance); Alain Pinzani (cardiology); Béatrice Place (community pharmacy); Frédéric Plotka-Brun (general practice); Yves Poinson (internal practice); Jean Poirriez (biology); François Pouliquen (general practice); Claire Presne (nephrology); Eric Priou (community pharmacy); Robert Pujol (community pharmacy); Philippe Regard (general practice); Vincent Renard (general practice); Olivier Rogeau (infectious disease); Renaud Roubille (hospital pharmacy); Lucien Roulet (pharmacovigilance); Philippe Roux (general practice); Jean-François Royer (community pharmacy); Olivier Rozand (general practice); Henry Rozenbaum (gynaecology); Catherine Sauvaget (epidemiology - Japan); Patrick Segaud (general practice); François Serru (community pharmacy); Claire Sevin (community pharmacy); Didier Seyler (public health); Catherine Soulat (gynaecology); Alain Strady (internal practice); Benoît Tanguy (gynaecology-obstetrics); Xavier Tarpin (general practice); Stéphane Tellez (community pharmacy); Laurent Thiriet (hospital pharmacy); Xavier Thomas (haematology); Emmanuel Trénado (AIDES); Christophe Trivalle (geriatrics); Jean Van Elslande (general practice); Frédéric Varricchio (FDA - USA); Christian Vernier (general practice); Daniel Wirthner (gynaecology-obstetrics - Switzerland); Patrick Yéni (internal medicine)