

## Editorial



It gives me great pleasure to announce that ESPAI has become member in the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS). FOCIS, the highest organization concerned with the specialty of clinical immunology, has 43 member societies, representing roughly 60,000 scientists. A Federation of this size provides a voice for clinical immunologists and ultimately strives to improve patient care. We are thus proud to be member of the World Allergy Organization (WAO) as well as the FOCIS which will indeed improve our efforts to promote the specialty of allergy/immunology in Egypt and the whole region.

As you all know, we had to cancel our International Congress this year owing to the revolution events in Egypt last February. I am sure that the freedom and happiness we all feel will lead to many wonderful scientific meetings of ESPAI in the near future. Our eminent international speakers of the canceled 2011 event are willing to share in our forthcoming congress. They are also eager to visit the Tahrir Square!

There is still a chance to register and participate in the second Middle East/Asia Allergy Asthma Immunology Conference (MEAAAIC 2011) that will be held in Dubai - UAE, on April 28-30, 2011. You will find a link to this congress website (<http://www.MEAAAIC.org/2010dubai/>) on our home page (<http://www.espai-eg.org>). Do not miss the opportunity.

You will enjoy reading this issue of the Egyptian Journal of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology. The review article contains recent advances in the immunomodulatory effects of food and you will find 20 relevant self-assessment MCQs and their answers. The peer-reviewed original articles were carefully selected from the many articles submitted to the journal. The first two articles focus on some bio-markers of lupus nephritis in the pediatric age group. The 3<sup>rd</sup> article was submitted by a colleague from Libya. It reports data on the immunization of infants and preschool children at Al-Beida City of Libya. The authors of the 4<sup>th</sup> article sought to investigate the long-term protection of hepatitis B vaccination among Egyptian children. Circulating dendritic cells in pediatric patients with nephrotic syndrome is the subject of the last original article in this issue and the CME section also contains a glossary of some terms related to dendritic antigen presenting cells. Do not forget to go through the Calendar of forthcoming allergy/immunology scientific meetings and our collection of allergy/immunology abstracts from international periodicals.

I would like to remind you that the monthly WAO e-letter is displayed on our website. Please guide your fellows, nurses and patients to it as it provides all the news they need to know about allergy on monthly basis. The WAO e-letter is being translated regularly into seven languages including Arabic and you will find the current and previous Arabic e-letter on the WAO website (<http://www.worldallergy.org/enews/>) as well as on our home page (<http://www.espai-eg.org/espai.htm>). On our website, you will also get information on how to submit an article for publication in the WAO online journal and can sign up to get the journal alerts (<http://www.editorialmanager.com/waojournal/>).

On behalf of the associate editors, I look forward to receiving your comments about this issue and any suggestions you may have on [journal@espai-eg.org](mailto:journal@espai-eg.org).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Y. EL GAMAL'.

**Yehia El-Gamal**  
Editor-in-Chief.