

## Editorial

On behalf of the editorial board of the Egyptian Journal of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new international advisory panel members, Prof. John Warner (UK), the editor-in-chief of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, and Prof. Ulrich Wahn (Germany) the president of the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (EAACI). Their vast experience and enthusiasm will certainly improve the outcome quality of our publication.

This issue especially brings you diverse articles and interesting subjects. The review article focuses on the immune system of the newly born in terms of competence and new research aspects. Also, eight authentic articles are included after being reviewed by a group of eminent Egyptian referees. Neonatal T-cell activation markers are investigated in one of these articles but the topic most commonly tackled in the current issue is childhood asthma. A study of the TARC chemokine is an example and another article is concerned with the chemokine receptor CXCR4. A controlled study on the expression of the brain-derived neurotrophic factor in asthma is published and one of the studies used CT scanning of the nasal sinuses to assess rhinosinusitis in asthmatic children. The urinary excretion of the leukotriene E<sub>4</sub> in atopic dermatitis, lymphocyte apoptosis in pediatric-onset systemic lupus erythematosus and retinal binding protein excretion in lupus nephritis are investigated in three articles of this issue too.

As for the CME section, the impact of allergic rhinitis on asthma is discussed and there are 25 MCQs on atopic eczema dermatitis syndrome. Those who read the review article of the April 2003 issue will easily answer them. Otherwise, the answers are cited on page 147 of the current issue. One of the goals of ESPAI is to deliver information to parents or caregivers of children suffering from allergic, autoimmune or immune deficiency diseases. The patient education corner focuses on the atopic eczema dermatitis syndrome again and is written, of course, in Arabic language; kindly deliver it to your patients. Don't miss the glossary which explains the types of antigens and the calendar of important allergy and immunology events which are due to take place in the forthcoming months.

If you have visited our website lately, then you must have noticed that our new pocket guide entitled "Treatment of Hypertension in Children" was added. Detailed patient educational tips (in Arabic) are also available. I would finally like to invite you to attend the Second Congress of ESPAI which will be held on Feb 19-20, 2004 at the Nile Hilton Hotel in Cairo. The registration and abstract forms will be handed out this month. You can get copies by contacting our board members directly or by e-mailing us at congress@espai-eg.org and we will be happy to mail you a copy swiftly.

I hope you will find the contents of this and every issue of the Egyptian Journal of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology fruitful and enjoyable.



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

