

PRESCRIRE INTERNATIONAL

Managing Editor: Christophe Kopp general practitioner

Coordinating Editor: Christine Badiane

Sub Editor: Karen Albrecht

Translators: Helen Geneviev, Ros Schwartz, David Young

Consultants: Judith Mintzes, Andrea Tarr

Subscription department: Christine Barraud

PRESCRIRE

Publishing Director: Bruno Toussaint

Publishing Committee: José Aguilar, Séverine Carré-Pétraud, Pierre Chirac, Valentine de Belleruche, Jacques Juillard, Hélène Merlin, Jérôme Robert, Philippe Schilliger, Jérôme Sclafér

Executive Secretary: Martine Divet

Development: Shirley Decupère with Lucie Alexandre, Véronique Beauzel, Élise Dezothéz, Bernardin Dilou, Sarah Hembert and Vanessa Sumyuen; Houria Farhi (Algeria)

Human Resources: Valentine de Belleruche with Laetitia Luyeye Kinioko and Huynh Dieu Nguyen

Accounts: Tanguy Goblet with Martine Kowanski

Administration, Reception, Mail Room: Astou Badji, Séverine Bégnes, Ibrahim Daffé and Gérald Pierre

Circulation and Subscriber Services: Christine Barraud with Aleksandra Debon, Cécile Gai, Corinne Kramer, Patricia Médioni, Cécile Montel and Stéphanie Traca; technical solutions B&C Technologies

Information Technology: Xavier Martin-Legeay, with Damien Donnet, AL consulting, Apogea, DevPartner, Dokoos, Les Artisans numériques, Octelio, PFL consulting, Samu-Informatique, Ze Team

Design:

Art Director: Martine Talent

Layout: Nathalie Cappelletti with Sandrine Guillaume, Geneviève Lamagdelaine, Catherine Marriette, Sandrine Praud, Jennifer Ribeiro-Marta

Multimedia layout: Catherine Marriette, Sandrine Praud

Editor: Jérôme Sclafér general practitioner with Séverine Carré-Pétraud pharmacist

Editorial Committee: José Aguilar, Marie Babin, Pierre Chirac, Gilles Mignot

Section Editors:

• **Editorial:** Jacques Juillard MD • **Brain-teaser:** José Aguilar MD • **New products:** Florence Chapelle pharmacist; Antoine Grandvullemin pharmacist; Sébastien Hardy pharmacist; Jean-Yves Rolland dentist

• **Adverse effects:** Elisabeth Veyria pharmacist with Céline Roussel pharmacist • **Reviews:** José Aguilar MD; Marie Babin biologist; Juliette Barthe general practitioner; Marc Legrelle diabetes specialist; Philippe Mura general practitioner; Céline Martin pharmacist

• **Information to patients:** Christine Guilbaud pharmacist • **Health and society:** Clarisse Briand public health; Pierre Chirac pharmacist; Bénédicte Connault MD

• **Book review:** Pierre Frouard general practitioner

• **Guideline watch:** Jean-Pierre Noiry general practitioner with Marine Barillot pharmacist • **Reader's test:** Christian Bouret general practitioner • **Take it easy:** Christophe Kopp general practitioner • **Forum:** Odile Burrus nurse • **Queries and comments:** Cécile Poilpré pharmacist • **Prescrire electronic media :** Hélène Merlin pharmacist

Production Editor: Christine Badiane with Sophie Bel and Fabrice Mailly

Information search:

• **Companies and agencies:** Olivier Huyghe with Karine Bégnaud, Nathalie Deleau, Sophie Ginolhac, Ayah Hakim, Cécile Loubeyre-Unique, Samia Nabi

• **Packaging working group:** Olivier Huyghe and Samia Nabi • **Literature search:** Marine Barillot, Cécile Loubeyre-Unique, Minata Traoré with Astou Badji, Nathalie Hayes and Hortense Sanon

Editorial Office: Christelle Sissokho with Hélène Declerck

Editors: Nadine Aidan dentist; Laurence Aimard civil engineer; Anne Americh pharmacist; Anne Aubert pharmacist; Éric Bel pharmacist; Delphine Bourneau-Martin pharmacist; Isabelle Breton MD; Éric Corqueira pharmacist; Sophie Chalons pharmacist; Nolwenn Clec'h communication; Michel Coletti general practitioner; Nina Degrell pharmacist; Nathalie Deleau pharmacist; Aurélie Delépine general practitioner; Claude Demange pharmacist; Magali Dodeman nurse; Jean Doubovetzky general practitioner; Houria Farhi general practitioner; Aldo Fari biologist; Nathalie François-Moliner paediatrician; Philippe Gabrié MD; Ghyslaine Galhaud-Costes pharmacist; Sophie

President: Pierre Chirac pharmacist

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 monthly journal of selected texts translated from the French journal Prescrire.

Prescrire is published 11 times a year by Association Mieux Prescrire, a non-profit continuing education organisation (N° 11 711 075) under the French law of 1901. Its board members are: Pierre Chirac (President); Séverine Carré-Pétraud (Vice President); Antoine Grandvullemin (Treasurer); Bernard Topuz (General Secretary); Dörte Gunthert (Deputy General Secretary).

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 english.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. Members of the Editorial Staff define editorial goals. They oversee the literature search, the writing and rewriting of texts, and the 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 (english.prescrire.org); see the «About Prescrire» section, «How we work».

Ginolhac pharmacist; Marie-France Gonzalvez pharmacist; Jean-Pierre Gribeauval (medical law); Dörte Gunthert geriatrician; Béatrice Guyard-Boileau gynaecologist-obstetrician; Ayah Hakim pharmacist; Ghislaine Henry general practitioner; Olivier Huyghe pharmacist; Aurélie Jamet pharmacist; Fabienne Jourdan emergency care; Philippe Lecoq (internal medicine); Laurence Le Quang Trieu pharmacist; Sophie Leroger pharmacist; Cécile Loubeyre-Unique pharmacist; Nadjat Loumi pharmacologist; Odile Martinet geriatrician; Marie-Anne Mingeot journalist; Gilles Mignot pharmacologist; Denis Millières-Lacroix general practitioner; Laure Misrahi-Guillaume pharmacist; Agnès Monchovet-Godard general practitioner; Didier Morère pharmacist; Évelyne Mouret pharmacist; Clotaire Nanga pharmacist; Angelina Nguyen-Tramond general practitioner; Chantal Oliéric pharmacist; Ann Pariente MD; Sophie Pilon pharmacist; Sonia Prot-Labarthe pharmacist; Michaël Rochoy (general practitioner); Bernard Rueff MD; Étienne Schmitt pharmacist; Agnès Sommet pharmacologist; Christoph Steffen epidemiology; Bernard Topuz MD; Florence Vandeveld pharmacist; Maryse Véron nurse; Cyril Vidal dentist; Caroline Vincent pharmacist

Consulting Editors: Philippe Adrien; Karine Bégnaud; Angèle Bouquet; Alain Burtscher; Mélanie Hardy; Jeanne Maritoux; Eve Parry; Annie Pecresse; Olivier Rozand

Art and Photo Editor: Olivier Huyghe

Illustrations: José David; Léa Lord; Alain Savino
Indexing: Mélanie Hardy, Hélène Merlin with Laurence Le Quang Trieu, Sandrine Parmentier, Annie Mura (illustrations)

Prescrire electronic media: Hélène Merlin

Policy advocacy: Florence Vandeveld with Teresa Alves, Pierre Chirac, Olivier Huyghe, Christophe Kopp
Projects: Catherine Alexandre; Mireille Didier; Karelle Le Glout; Christine Piette; Didier Rod

Reviewers' panels: Laure Misrahi-Guillaume
For Belgium and Switzerland: Sophie Chalons with Marie-Louise Bouffloux, Dominique Leyh (Agence fédérale des médicaments et des produits de santé), and Catherine Delafontaine (pharmaSuisse)

Translations "Assessment Elsewhere": Marie-Andrée Bernard, Annick Pijnenburg, Karin Raton, Eva Stille

Website: Philippe Schilliger and Karen Albrecht

Subscriber correspondence: Anne Americh, Nolwenn Clec'h, Jacques Juillard, Annie Pecresse

Continuing education programmes:

Pedagogical adviser: Philippe Schilliger • **Instructors:** Anne Aubert; Christian Bouret; Frédérique Digonnet; Maryse Véron • **Organisation:** Hélène Merlin • **Atelier Médicaments en Question:** Nadine Aidan • **Atelier**

Questions de Pratiques: Éric Bel, Christine Guilbaud

• **Evaluation:** Sandrine Parmentier

• **Accreditation:** Ghyslaine Galhaud-Costes

REVIEW PANEL: The following persons reviewed the articles, which were first published in Prescrire then translated for this issue of Prescrire International: Armand Abergel (hepatology); Catherine Alamowitch (endocrinology); Brigitte Autran (immunology); Haleh Bagheri (pharmacology); Françoise Ballereau (hospital pharmacy); Jean-Claude Balzon (oncology); Hélène Bergeron Le Deut (general practice); Philippe Biedermann (general practice); Marc-André Bigard (gastroenteropathology); Jean-Frédéric Bourva (pharmacy); Jean-Luc Brun (gynaecology); Delphine Carré-Gislard (dermatology); Eric Caumes (infectiology); Jean-Dièdre Cavallo (infectiology); Céline Cazorla (infectiology); Gérard Chabrier (endocrinology); Pierre Chevalier (general practice - Belgium); Olivier Chosidow (dermatology); Lionel Chouteau (general practice); Pierre Claustre (pharmacy); Jean-Pierre Clavel (medical biology); Régis Cohen (endocrinology); Valérie Colas (pharmacy and toxicology); Christine Damase-Michel (pharmacology); Marc Dauphin (endocrinology); Henriette De Valk (epidemiology); Philippe Deguiral (oncology); Christine Do Cao (endocrinology); Dominique Dupagne (general practice); Nicolas Dupont (epidemiology); Geneviève Durrieu (pharmacology); Camille Fitoussi (dermatology); Daniel Floret (paediatric intensive care); Jean-Eudes Fontan (hospital pharmacy); Jean-Marc Geniole (general practice); Fabienne Grunemberger (endocrinology); Jean-Luc Guérin (medical biology); Françoise Haramburu (pharmacology); Emmanuelle Herlem (pharmacovigilance); Jean-Pierre Hespel (diabetology); Dominique Hillaire-Buys (pharmacology); Jean-Pierre Jacquet (general practice); Pierre Kieffer (internal medicine); Jean-Claude Kuhn (general practice); Pascal Lachaise (pharmacy); Jean Lamarche (pharmacy); Antoine Laplanche (internal medicine); Robert Laurent (general practice); Marie-France Le Goaziou (general practice); Jean-Pierre Lellouche (paediatrics); Joël Leroy (infectiology); Daniel Lévy-Bruhl (epidemiology); Denis Marcel-Venault (general practice); Jean-François Masse (general practice); Christian Merlin (pharmacy); Florence Metz (pharmacy); Claudina Michal-Teitelbaum (mother and child protection); Arnaud Millaret (medical biology); Joseph Monsonego (gynaecology - obstetrics); Jean-Louis Monstauc (pharmacology); Christiane Mougin (virology); Nathalie Mugnier (hospital pharmacy); Philippe Noir De Chazournes (general practice); Jean-Michel Oriol (general practice); Hélène Pacquement (paediatrics); Elisabeth Paganelli (gynaecology); Jean-Luc Paturel (general practice); Joël Pelerin (general practice); Christian Perronne (infectiology); Thierry Pirola (general practice); Emmanuel Plouvier (paediatrics); François Pouliquen (general practice); Robert Pujol (pharmacy); Emma Ramiro-Puig (pharmacy); Bruno Revol (hospital pharmacy); Brigitte Rochereau (nutrition); Michaël Rochoy (general practice); Jean-Louis Schlienger (endocrinology); Jean-François Sei (dermatology); Danièle Sommelet-Olive (paediatric oncology); Daniel Sonnet (pharmacy); Pierre Tattévin (clinical semiology); Laurent Thiriet (hospital pharmacy); Marie-Madeleine Trassart (general practice); Corinne Treillard (hospital pharmacy); Marc Van De Castele (internal medicine - Belgium); Frederick Varrichio (FDA - USA); Jean-Louis Wemeau (endocrinology); Raphaël Wielgo (hospital pharmacy); Philippe Zerr (teaching gp).

Copyright Prescrire

www.prescrire.org

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.

Printing: Imprimerie BMG - France



Prescrire is a founder and member of ISDB, a network of drug bulletins that are independent of drug companies, which aims to promote international exchange of quality information on drugs and therapeutics.
Website: www.isdbweb.org