

**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 Vandevelde

**Executive Secretary:** Martine Divet

**Development:** Fabrice Mailly assisted by Bernardin Dilou, Aurélie Mauries 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 Declerck 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](mailto: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 Prud and Geneviève Lamagdelaine

**Multimedia layout:** Catherine Marriette

**Printing:** Les Ateliers réunis - France

**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](http://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](http://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 Genevier, 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:** Élisabeth 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*, Jean-Yves Rolland *dentist*; 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 Mengeot *journalist*; Chantal Oliéric *pharmacist*; Étienne Schmitt *pharmacist*  
**Junior Editors:** Laurence Aimard *civil engineer*; Anne Aubert *pharmacist*; Marie Babin *biologist*; Juliette Barthe *general practitioner*; Abdelhakim Berrah *economist*; Éric Cer-

queira *pharmacist*; Florence Chapelle *pharmacist*; Nina Degrell *pharmacist*; Houria Farhi MD; Nathalie François-Moliner *gynaesthetics*; Pierre Frouard *general practitioner*; Hubert Gaedemast *pharmacist*; Sophie Ginolhac *pharmacist*; Marie-France Gonzalvez *pharmacist*; Antoine Grandvillain *pharmacist*; Dörte Gunther *geriatrician*; Fabienne Jourdan *emergency care*; Cécile Loubeyre-Unique *pharmacist*; Nadjat 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*; Élisabeth Rivollier *general practitioner*; Didier Rod MD; Céline Roussel *pharmacist*; Bernard Rueff MD; Bernard Topuz MD; Florence Vandevelde *pharmacist*; Maryse Véron *nurse*.

**Also contributed to this issue:** Éric Galam

**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

**Consulting Editors:** Philippe Adrien; Karine Bégnaud; Catherine Monteiro

**Proofreading:** Jeanne Maritoux; Denis Millières-Lacroix; Evelyne Mouret; Annie Péresse; Céline Roussel; Bernard Rueff

**Reviewers' panels:** Laure Misrahi

**For Belgium and Switzerland:** Cécile Poilpré with Marie-Louise Bouffiuou, 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, Eva Stille

**Editorial Office:** Christelle Sissokho and Hélène Declerck

**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 Vandevelde • **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*: Antoine Adenis (oncology); Pierre-Jacques Ambrosi (internal medicine); Lionel Anxo (general practice); Michel Aujoulat (general practice); Guillaume Babin (medical student); Thierry Balais (psychiatry); Emmanuelle Barré (radiopharmaceuticals pharmacy); Laurent Bedenne (oncology); François Begom (general practice); René-Jean Bensadoun (oncology); Claude Béraud (health insurance); Alain Berrebi (gynaecology - obstetrics); Marie-Noëlle Beyens (pharmacovigilance); Jacques Birgé (general practice); Michel Boiret (general practice); Pascal Bonnabry (hospital pharmacy); Jean-Marie Bonnetblanc (dermatology); Éric Bonnin (geriatrics); Christine Botte (general practice); Alain Bottéro (psychiatry); Olivier Bouché (oncology); Philippe Broussard (pharmacovigilance); Michel Camus (pneumology); Patrick Carlier (pharmacology); Alfonso Carvajal (pharmacology); Yves Castaing (intensive care); Pascal Cathébras (internal practice); Jean-Marc Chabernaud (cardiology); Marc Chanelière (general practice); Alain Chanson (emergency care); Julien Chauvin (community pharmacy); Pierre Chevallier (INAMI - Belgium); Lionel Chouteau (general practice); Pierre Clautre (community pharmacy); Béatrice Crickx (dermatology); Christine Damase-Michel (pharmacology); Suzanne Dat (gynaecology); Blandine de la Gastine (pharmacovigilance); Denis Del Nista (emergency care); Geneviève Delzant (internal medicine); Hervé Douine (general practice); Brigitte Dréno (dermatology); Michel Ducreux (oncology); Edith Dufay (hospital pharmacy); Martine Dumetz (nursing executive); Emmanuel Dumont (cardiology); Jean-Christophe Édé (general practice); Éric Estève (dermatology); Alain Facon (anaesthesiology); Thierry Farge (general practice); Bertrand Favier (hospital pharmacy); Jean-Louis Feit (community pharmacy); Béatrice Fervers (oncology); Sophie Figon (general practice); Michel Galnier (cardiology); Guy Galopin (general practice); Bernard Gavid (general practice); Jean-Marc Geniole (general practice); Christine Gintz (psychiatry); Michel Gréhan (cardiology); Jean-Pierre Gribiveau (medical law); Christine Guilbaud (community pharmacy); Élise Guillet (general practice); Patrick Harry (intensive care); Ghislaine Henry (general practice); Tanja Holger (pharmacology Norway); Patrick Hoffeld (gynaecology-obstetrics - Switzerland); Constant Houssou (psychiatry); Joëlle Karchen (hospital pharmacy); Pierre Kiegel (intensive care); Paul Kiritze-Topor (general practice); Pierre Klotz (internal medicine); Emmanuelle Koegler Heymann (general practice); Claude Kouakam (cardiology); Lucette Lacombe (neurology); Yves Lambert (anaesthesiology); Alain Landau (hepatology); Antoine Laplanche (internal medicine); Frédéric Lapostolle (emergency care); Christian Largeateau (general practice); Philippe Latretye (general practice); Robert Laurent (general practice); Jean-Lucien Lavaud (emergency paediatrics); Bénédicte Lebrun-Vignes (pharmacology); Daniel Le Corgne (general practice); Erick Le Coz (community pharmacy); Patrick Le Padellec (community pharmacy); Côme Lepage (epidemiology); Paul Lhuissier (general practice); Anne Maheut Bosser (geriatrics); Sylvain Manfredi (gastroenterology); Francis March (general practice); Ludovic Martin (dermatology); Alain Martinole (general practice); Philippe Masquellier (general practice); Jean-Pierre Melin (nephrology); Jean-Baptiste Meric (oncology); Christian Merlin (community pharmacy); Bernard Mesle (general practice); Noël Milpied (haematology); Jean-Marc Mollard (palliative care); Marion Montastruc (haematology); Didier Morère (community pharmacy); Aline Mousnier (hospital pharmacy); Reman Oumedaly (haematology); Etienne Pace (general practice); Élisabeth Paganelli (gynecology); Jean-François Paqueriaud (general practice); Agnès Passeron (paediatrics); Jean-Luc Paturel (general practice); Pascal Paubel (hospital pharmacy); Jean-Patrick Penot (cardiology); Jean-Luc Perrot (dermatology); Alain Pinzani (cardiology); Nicolas Postel-Vinay (hypertension); Eric Priou (pharmacy); Lydie Puget (hospital pharmacy); Robert Pujol (community pharmacy); Catherine Remblier (pharmacovigilance); Dominique Reynaud (general practice); Arnaud Ribier (cardiology); Pierre Richard (emergency care); Valérie Rougeot (community pharmacy); Lucien Roulet (pharmacovigilance); Jean-François Royer (pharmacy); Jean-Paul Sculier (oncology - Belgium); Luc Stuit (nephrology); Stéphane Tellez (community pharmacy); Xavier Thomas (haematology); Dominique Tingaud (community pharmacy); Thierry Trenque (pharmacology); Christophe Trivalle (geriatrics); Anthony Vacher (Massa); Josette Vallée (general practice); Bruno Varet (hematology); Olivier Walusinski (general practice)



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>