

"To work, in all independence, in favour of quality health care, first and foremost in the interest of patients (...)."

(Article 1 of the Association Mieux Prescrire bylaws).

Prescrire International is a monthly journal of selected articles translated from the non-profit medical journal **Prescrire**. It is produced using the resources of the **Prescrire** team and published by **Association Mieux Prescrire**, a non-profit continuing education organisation (N° 11 711 075) registered under the French law of 1901.

Its board members are: Antoine Grandvilllemin (President); Thomas Declercq (Vice President); Jérôme Jean (Treasurer); Jérôme Schlafer (Deputy Treasurer); Samia Nabi (General Secretary); Michel Aujoulat (Deputy General Secretary).

PRESCRIRE INTERNATIONAL

Managing Editor: Dörte Gunthert with Clara Siegmund and Minata Traoré

Translation: Helen Geneviev with Sue Davis, Helen Le Bras, Hayley Wood and David Wynford-Thomas

Consultant: Judith Mintzes

PRESCRIRE

Publishing Director: Séverine Carré-Pétraud • **Publishing Committee:** Florence Chapelle, Pierre Chirac, Antoine Grandvilllemin, Julien Gelly, Marjolaine Loyaux, Xavier Martin-Legeay, Jérôme Robert, Jérôme Schlafer, Bruno Toussaint • **Development:** Anaëlle Castelbou with, Élise Dezothez, Pauline Dufougeray, Nicolas George, Nicolas Guillaud, Luz Lenglin • **Coordination - Human Resources and Office Services:** Marjolaine Loyaux with Martine Divet, Huynh Dieu Nguyen, Danielle Smila, Astou Badji, Ibrahima Daffé, Christelle Lesage, "Il est 5 heures" • **Accounts:** Tanguy Goblet with Fabrice Chane-Yock and Pascaline Toum • **Circulation and Subscriber Services:** Anaëlle Castelbou and Aleksandra Debon, Pierre Gasnot-Vauquer, Patricia Médioni; technical solutions TBS group, Nacre Solutions • **Information Technology:** Xavier Martin-Legeay with Pierre-Hakim Bekhti, William Braillon, Frédéric Jouzel, Mohamed Keita, Arthur Provenier; AmeXio, Apogea, DevPartner, Les Artisans numériques, PFL consulting, Ze Team • **Art Director:** Martine Talent • **Layout:** Nathalie Cappelletti with Nolwenn Benmeziane, Sandrine Praud, Jennifer Ribeiro-Marta • **Multimedia Layout:** Sandrine Praud

Every member of Prescrire's editorial staff signs Prescrire's "Non merci..." Charter and an annual declaration that they have no interests contrary to the objectives of Association Mieux Prescrire. The Charter and the Declaration are available online at english.prescrire.org. The quality of Prescrire's reviews is grounded in editorial procedures which tap into a large and varied base of specialised knowledge and skills. This unique, collaborative editorial process is symbolised by the collective "@Prescrire" byline. More information on Prescrire's editorial procedures is freely available at english.prescrire.org > About Prescrire

Editors: Florence Chapelle *pharmacist* and Julien Gelly *MD PhD* • **Editorial Committee:** Anne Aubert, Marine Barillot, Pierre Chirac, Frédérique Digonnet, Antoine Grandvilllemin

Section Editors: New products: Nathalie Deleau *pharmacist*; Sophie Ginolhac *pharmacist*; Antoine Grandvilllemin *pharmacist* • **Adverse effects:** Céline Roussel *pharmacist* • **Drugs during pregnancy and lactation:** Céline Roussel *pharmacist* • **Drug interactions:** Jérôme Schlafer *general practitioner* with Sophie Pilon *pharmacist* and Élisabeth Veyriac *pharmacologist* • **Reviews:** Anne Aubert *pharmacist*; Juliette Barthe *general practitioner*; Aurélie Delépine *general practitioner*; Marc Legrelle *diabetes specialist*; Céline Martin *pharmacist* • **Information for patients:** Christine Guilbaud *pharmacist* • **Health and society:** Pierre Chirac *pharmacist*; Hélène Frouard *journalist*; Sandrine Parmentier *sociologist* • **Guideline watch:** Marine Barillot *pharmacist* • **Reader's test:** Ayah Hakim *pharmacist* with Frédérique Digonnet *pharmacist* • **Take it easy:** Morgane Dejean *pharmacist* • **Forum:** Jérôme Robert • **Production Editors:** Blandine Guillemot-Pinard, Nathalie Thibot • **Information search, companies and agencies:** Karine Begnaud with Elodie Artielle-Beaucamp, Julie Bontemps, Thomas Declercq, Cécile Loubeyre-Unique, Eve Parry, Elodie Turpaud • **Health products regulation:** Olivier Huyghe • **Packaging Working Group:** Thomas Declercq and Elodie Artielle-Beaucamp • **Literature search:** Marine Barillot, Cécile Loubeyre-Unique, Minata Traoré with Astou Badji, Nathalie Hayes • **Editorial Office:** Christelle Sissokho with Hélène Declercq • **Editors:** José Aguilar *MD*; Nehama Aidan *dentist*; Elodie Artielle-Beaucamp *pharmacist*; Jean-François Audouard *general practitioner*; Marie Babin *clinical pathologist*; Marine Barillot *pharmacist*; Karine Begnaud *pharmacist*; Éric Bel *pharmacist*; Julie Bontemps *pharmacist*; Odile Burrus *nurse*; Fabrice Cahen *historian*; Valentine Campana *pharmacist*; Éric Cerqueira *pharmacist*; Nolwenn Clec'h *communication*; Michel Coletti *general practitioner*; Bénédicte Connault *MD*; Thomas Declercq *pharmacist*; Nina Degrell *pharmacist*; Morgane Dejean *pharmacist*; Claude Demange *pharmacist*; Frédérique Digonnet *pharmacist*; Jean Doubovetzky *general practitioner*; Amel Drici *general practitioner*; Ghyslaine Galhaud-Costes *pharmacist*; Aymeric Gamondes *nurse*; Philippe Gripon *occupational medicine, toxicologist*; Dörte Gunthert *geriatrician*; Béatrice Guyard-Boileau *gynaecologist-obstetrician*; Mélanie Hardy *pharmacist*; Sébastien Hardy *pharmacist*; Mathieu Hautemulle *journalist*; Aymeric Henriot *MD*; Ghislaine Henry *general practitioner*; Olivier Huyghe *pharmacist*; Jérôme Jean *nurse*; Fabienne Jourdan *emergency care*; Jacques Juillard *MD*; Laurence Le Quang Trieu *pharmacist*; Sophie Logerot *pharmacist*; Cécile Loubeyre-Unique *pharmacist*; Nadjat Loumi *pharmacologist*; Florent Macé *pharmacist*; Natacha Marpillat *pharmacist*; Odile Martinet *geriatrician*; Marie-Anne Mengeot *journalist*; Hélène Merlin *pharmacist*; Gilles Mignot *pharmacologist*; Denis Millières-Lacroix *general practitioner*; Laure Misrahi-Guillaume *pharmacist*; Agnès Monchovet-Godard *general practitioner*; Evelyne Mouret *pharmacist*; Samia Nabi *pharmacist*; Clotaire Nanga *pharmacist*; Angelina Nguyen-Tramond *general practitioner*; Ann Pariente *MD*; Eve Parry *pharmacist*; Gabriel Perraud *general practitioner*; Anne-Gaëlle Provost *general practitioner*; Jean-Yves Rolland *dentist*; Agnès Rouzès *pharmacist*; Bernard Rueff *MD*; Philippe Schilliger *MD*; Étienne Schmitt *pharmacist*; Jérôme Schlafer *general practitioner*; Bernard Topuz *MD*; Bruno Toussaint *MD*; Élisabeth Veyriac *pharmacologist*; Cyril Vidal *dentist* • **Final verifications:** Nehama Aidan; Anne Americh; Karine Begnaud; Angèle Bouquet; Christine Guilbaud; Cécile Loubeyre-

Unique; Philippe Manet; Natacha Marpillat; Evelyne Mouret-Cisterne; Samia Nabi; Ève Parry; Christelle Sissokho; Minata Traoré • **Proofreading:** Aurélie Bordes, Henriette Bosvieux; Alain Burtscher; Olivier Rozand, Véronique Letournou • **Preventing the Preventable:** Étienne Schmitt with Thomas Declercq, Josette Vallée • **Illustrations:** Léa Lord; Alain Savino • **Indexing:** Mélanie Hardy with Marine Barillot, Laurence Le Quang Trieu, Cécile Loubeyre-Unique, Sandrine Parmentier • **Prescrire electronic media:** Juliette Barthe; Mélanie Hardy • **Policy advocacy:** Rita Kessler with Pierre Chirac; Nicolas Demanet • **Reviewers' panels:** Nehama Aidan and Christine Guilbaud • **For Belgium and Switzerland:** Éric Bel with Céline Martin, Marie-Louise Bouffloux, Catherine Smolders (Agence fédérale des médicaments et des produits de santé), and Élodie Fauquex (pharmaSuisse) • **Translations "Assessment Elsewhere":** Christa Jordan, Karin Raton • **Subscriber correspondence:** Nolwenn Clec'h, Blandine Guillemot-Pinard, Jérôme Robert • **Other contributions:** Mathilde Cosson; Martine Lalande; Karelle Le Gleut; Fanny Rocher; Didier Rod

Continuing education programmes: Pedagogical advisers: Frédérique Digonnet with Philippe Schilliger • **Instructors:** Frédérique Digonnet; Ayah Hakim • **Evaluation:** Éric Bel; Sandrine Parmentier • **Accreditation:** Ghyslaine Galhaud-Costes.



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

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

www.prescrire.org

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



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

Emmanuel Andrès (internal medicine); Jean-Benoit Arlet (internal medicine); Marine Aulois (health law); Romain Barus (pharmacovigilance); Manuel Baudet (general practice); Solène Baudet (midwifery); Anna-Belle Beau (pharmacovigilance); Sonia Bedjidian (hospital pharmacy); Alexandre Biosse Duplan (public health); Pascal Bonnabry (hospital pharmacy); Christine Botte (general practice); Philippe Bouchoux (dermatology); Anne-Marie Bouldouyre Magnier (general practice); Lydia Brispot (general practice); Henri Bruel (paediatrics); Isabelle Burgy (pharmacy); Delphine Carré-Gislard (dermatology); Suzanne Dat (medical gynaecology); Christophe Decoene (anaesthesiology-intensive care); Catherine Deguignes (public health); Laurence Dol (hospital pharmacy); Michel Dreyfus (obstetrics & gynaecology); Sandra Duc (general practice); Catherine Dumont (paediatrics); Maryse Etienne-Julan (clinical pathology); Jean-Luc Faillie (pharmacovigilance); Gilles Faron (obstetrics & gynaecology); Sylvie Gatt (pharmacy); Marie Gervoise Boyer (pharmacovigilance); Jean-Marc Gibert (general practice); Bernard Guillot (dermatology); Sandra Henocq (general practice); Delphine Hudry (gynaecological surgery); Isabelle Lacroix (pharmacovigilance); Robert Laurent (general practice); Daniela Laux (paediatric cardiology); Christian Lavigne (internal medicine); Pauline Le Saint (general practice); Philippe Lecocq (internal medicine); Cécile Lefebvre (general practice); Caroline Makowski (transfusion medicine); Christian Merlin (pharmacy); Jean-Louis Montastruc (pharmacology); Anne Mourey (pharmacy); Camille Mura (midwifery); Assa Niakate-Tall (haematology); Élisabeth Paganelli (obstetrics & gynaecology); Antoine Petit (dermatology); Renaud Roubille (hospital pharmacy); Béatrice Rousset (hospital pharmacy); Catherine Soulat (obstetrics & gynaecology); Marie-Odile Soyer-Gobillard (Hhorages); Amélie Thomassin (hospital pharmacy); Frédéric Tranchard (general practice); Hélène Vacher (hospital pharmacy); Isabelle Vincent (hospital pharmacy); Agnès Vitry (pharmacy research)