Editorials

A new section in Respiratory Medicine

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In October 1999 the First International Symposium on the Eosinophil was held in Lund, Sweden. The theme of the Symposium was Biology of the Eosinophil and covered clinical and animal models of eosinophilia and the mechanisms that operate in eosinopoiesis and trafficking. In addition, eosinophil-specific proteins, eosinophil secretory mechanisms and eosinophil pharmacology were discussed.

The Symposium was organized to establish a platform for exchange of knowledge and ideas regarding the eosinophil granulocyte. The many groups that are involved in eosinophil research are scattered throughout the world and perform work in many different areas where the eosinophil granulocyte is the only common denominator. Some groups perform clinical research in various disease entities, others carry out laboratory research to elucidate eosinophil behaviour and control.

In forthcoming issues of Respiratory Medicine, we will publish a series of summaries that will represent the content of the Symposium. This will also be a forerunner for a new section in the Journal devoted to eosinophil research. With this I am delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Per Venge, Uppsala, Sweden, as Section Editor. He is also a representative of the new Eosinophil Society founded at the Symposium.

The eosinophil is involved in several lung diseases such as asthma, fibrotic lung diseases and possibly lung cancer. Of course, many other aspects of the eosinophil granulocyte will be published and give the opportunity for new thoughts and collaborations to understand the role of the eosinophil in disease and health.

We hope that this new regular feature within Respiratory Medicine will be well received.