Introduction to Dr. Maccioni's Feature Section

Morton A. Meyers

Department of Radiology, Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794-8460, USA

It is one of the goals of a scientific journal to publish a seminal paper that brings creative leaps. In 2000, *Abdominal Imaging* was pleased to publish an invited original scientific article by Francesca Maccioni and colleagues dealing with the innovative use of MRI in evaluating the activity of Crohn's disease [1]. It was promptly hailed as a "landmark paper... of extreme

importance... It lays the groundwork for future clinical research in the application of MRI to inflammatory disease in the small bowel" [2]. While interest and investigations by other medical centers were stimulated [3–8], Dr. Maccioni, Senior Lecturer and Researcher in Diagnostic Radiology at University La Sapienza in Rome, has continued to expand her clinical experience and deepen detailed understanding and precise correlations [9–12] (Fig. 1).

The Feature Section under her Guest Editorship in this issue of *Abdominal Imaging* presents not only our perceptions today but also indicates the likely future developments. Notably, it transcends the barriers between radiologists and gastroenterologists and fosters a gainful integrated approach. With training in both radiology and gastroenterology, Dr. Maccioni is eminently qualified to bridge the two specialties in correlating imaging findings with clinical indices and laboratory data.

Fig. 1. Dr. Francesca Maccioni.

References

1. Maccioni F, Viscido A, Broglia L, et al. (2000) Evaluation of Crohn disease activity with magnetic resonance imaging. *Abdom Imaging* 25(3):219–228
2. Lichenstein GR, Schnall M, Herlinger H (2000) Invited commentary: MRI evaluation of Crohn disease activity. *Abdom Imaging* 25(3):229
3. Gourtsoyiannis N, Papanikolaou N, Grammatikakis J, et al. (2004) Assessment of Crohn's disease activity in the small bowel with MR and conventional enteroclysis: preliminary results. *Eur Radiol* 14(6): 1017–1024
4. Sempere GA, Martinez SV, Medina CE, et al. (2005) MRI evaluation of inflammatory activity in Crohn's disease. *AJR Am J Roentgenol* 184(6):1829–1835
5. Florie J, Waser MN, Arts-Cieslik K, et al. (2006) Dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI of the bowel wall for assessment of disease activity in Crohn's disease. *AJR Am J Roentgenol* 186(5): 1384–1392
6. Pupillo VA, Di Cesare E, Frieri G, et al. (2007) Assessment of inflammatory activity in Crohn's disease by means of dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI. *Radiol Med* 112(6):798–809
7. Del Vecovo R, Sansoni I, Caviglia R, et al. (2008) Dynamic contrast enhanced magnetic resonance imaging of the terminal ileum: differentiation of activity of Crohn's disease. *Abdom Imaging* 33(4):417–424

8. Giusti S, Faggioni L, Neri E, et al. (2010) Dynamic MRI of the small bowel: usefulness of quantitative contrast enhancement parameters and time-signal intensity curves for differentiating between active and inactive Crohn's disease. *Abdom Imaging* 35(6):646–653
9. Maccioni F, Bruni A, Viscido A, et al. (2006) MR imaging in patients with Crohn disease: value of T2-versus T1-weighted gadolinium-enhanced MR sequences with use of an oral superparamagnetic contrast agent. *Radiology* 238(2):517–530
10. Maccioni F, Mazzamurro F, Martinelli M et al (2010). Proposal of an MRI activity index for Crohn's disease. Scientific presentation. Abstract ID: 9015491, SS J08-04. RSNA Annual Meeting 2010, Chicago
11. Glaudemans AWJ, Maccioni F, Mansi L, et al. (2010) Imaging of cell trafficking in Crohn's disease. *J Cell Physiol* 223:562–572
12. Maccioni F (2010) Double-contrast magnetic resonance imaging of the small and large bowel: effectiveness in the evaluation of inflammatory bowel disease. *Abdom Imaging* 35(1):31–40