EDITORIAL

LUNG Year in Review: 2023

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Thanks to a dedicated editorial and production team, the year 2023 represented a period of further growth and progress at *LUNG*. The positive trajectory established in recent years [1] continued, as evidenced by a further significant rise in impact factor as well as strong numbers of article downloads. The acceptance rate of submitted manuscripts continued to decrease, to approximately 10%, reflecting publication of the highest quality contributions received from authors worldwide.

The field of cough has been an area of very active investigation during the past several years, highlighted in 2022 by the publication of the first-ever phase 3 clinical trial of an antitussive agent, gefapixant [2], leading to its approval in Japan and Switzerland in 2022, and by the European Medicines Agency in 2023. *LUNG* has been proud to serve as a source of numerous cough–related articles in the past year, covering basic [3, 4] and clinical [5–13] aspects of cough, as well as the ongoing and prolific field of antitussive drug development [14–18].

The topic of sarcoidosis was featured prominently throughout the pages of the journal in 2023. Clinical [19–21] and genetic [22, 23] aspects of this condition were considered, as well as the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the diagnosis of sarcoidosis [24–26]. Treatment and evaluation of bronchiectasis were examined [27–29] and, as would be expected, interstitial lung disease (ILD) [30, 31] and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) specifically [11, 32–34] received appropriate attention.

Studies of obstructive airways disease were well represented in 2023. Various aspects of adult and pediatric asthma [29, 35–38], basic and clinical chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) [39–43] and asthma-COPD overlap syndrome [44] were examined.

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The importance of lung cancer as an active field of inquiry was evident in the journal's issues throughout the year. Studies evaluating outcomes [45], screening [46], diagnosis [47, 48], treatment [49] and prognosis [50] were presented, in addition, a state-of-the-art review on the increasingly-important topic of lung cancer in never smokers [51]. Relevant to lung cancer diagnosis, the journal continued to receive quality submissions in the growing field of interventional pulmonology [47, 52, 53].

As was the case in previous years, COVID-19-related publications were few and represented only the highest quality submissions. Selected studies examined therapeutic [54, 55] as well as diagnostic [56, 57] aspects of the illness. Other articles in the area of pulmonary infectious disease examined nasal colonization in asthma [38], the lung microbiome in chronic respiratory disorders [58], as well as concomitant viral and fungal pulmonary infections [59, 60].

Continuously growing in importance, the field of lung transplantation was featured in studies describing survival [61] as well as post-transplant complications [62, 63]. Other significant aspects of pulmonary disease were covered in articles addressing sleep apnea [64], and in a number of articles examining pulmonary function and respiratory mechanics in subjects with cystic fibrosis [65], pregnant women [66] and persons with neuromuscular disease [67].

The journal remains eager to enhance its Critical Care content and encourages authors to consider *LUNG* for submission of their quality work. This past year we were pleased to publish clinically-relevant articles in areas such as extubation failure in acute respiratory failure [68], several studies involving extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) [57, 69, 70] as well as point-of-care lung ultrasound [56, 71]. *LUNG* also encourages authors to contribute work in the areas of pulmonary hypertension, pediatric pulmonology and pulmonary infectious diseases.

A major effort of the new editorial team during the past few years has been to increase the quality and quantity our preclinical and translational research content [1, 72]. To underscore this effort, the Editor-in-Chief appointed the first-ever Deputy Editor for Basic Science Research. In 2023,

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LUNG was pleased to publish a variety of high-quality translational studies on topics including acute lung injury [73, 74], respiratory tract infection [75], pulmonary fibrosis [76], COPD [42, 43], biomarkers of respiratory disease [77], and bronchopulmonary dysplasia [78].

The editorial team at *LUNG* is pleased by the recent success of the journal and remains enthusiastic and motivated to continue this positive trajectory. We aim to further improve the quality and impact of our journal, and to continue to expand our readership. To achieve our goal, we will remain dependent on our colleagues worldwide, working at the laboratory bench and at the bedside, to contribute their quality work to *LUNG*.

Declarations

Conflict of interest Peter Dicpinigaitis, MD, is the Editor-in-Chief of *LUNG*.

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