Introduction to “DDS Citation Classics”: Reaping Dividends from Rising Interest

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With this issue begins a new series aimed at highlighting key articles previously published in *Digestive Diseases and Sciences* that offer unique insight into a disease or into its pathophysiology that have consequently been highly cited due to their impact and novelty. Since the impact, realized importance, and cumulative citations of noteworthy publications can take years or even decades to accrue, this series is necessarily limited by the small number of publications that meet the requirements of high citation volume and the novelty required for inclusion. Nevertheless, in combing through the top-cited articles for this journal and of its predecessor, the *American Journal of Digestive Diseases*, several articles were identified that will be featured in this and in future issues, accompanied by commentaries provided by experts in the field. One of the corollaries of this series is to emphasize that groundbreaking studies of considerable originality need not be lengthy or costly to conduct but rather, in many cases, are distinguished by investigators willing to look at a problem differently than others and who have the courage to challenge an existing paradigm. Indeed, the index article featured in this issue is a brief case report.

For the first installment, it is my pleasure to recognize an article authored by Yoshida et al. from the Institute of Gastroenterology, Tokyo Women's Medical College that was published in this journal in 1995 [1]. According to Clarivate Journal Citation Reports, this article has been cited as of this

writing in 872 other publications due to its status as one of the first instances that the term “autoimmune pancreatitis” had been used in the literature, and due to its novel (at the time) conclusion that autoimmune pancreatitis is an entity separate from systemic diseases such as Sjögren's syndrome. Prof. Kazuichi Okazaki from Kansai University in Japan will provide a scholarly context for the article by chronicling the progress in understanding the clinical features, pathophysiology, and treatment of autoimmune pancreatitis from its discovery to the present [2]. We hope that our readers, through appreciation of the importance of this article, will gain additional insight into and understanding of this important disease that remains underdiagnosed and underappreciated.

References

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2. Okazaki, K. Autoimmune pancreatitis and IgG4-related disease: the storiform discovery to treatment. *Dig Dis Sci*. (Epub ahead of print). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10620-019-05746-9>.

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