

# Awards for the best articles published in 2005

## The Editorial Board

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In 2004, the Netherlands Journal of Medicine started to award prizes for the best articles in the Journal.<sup>1,2</sup> The main goal of awarding these prizes is to foster a bond between the readers, authors and editors of the Journal. Moreover, it also aims to enhance the quality of the submitted articles, which serves us all. This year, the jury consisted of P.W de Leeuw, A.E. Meinders, and B. Hylkema and they had the difficult task of selecting the best paper from the following categories: case report, review article, and original article. The jury cuttingly remarked that the quality of articles published in the Journal showed a solid upward trend, which made the selection process difficult.

### REVIEW ARTICLE

Review articles are highly appreciated by our readers and are central to the mission statement of the Journal.<sup>3</sup> A well-written review provides the readers of the Journal with a comprehensive overview on topical issues of immediate clinical relevance. The jury selected articles that scored best on items such as clarity, educational value, quality of the illustrations, and relevance for the clinical practitioner. The review article of Dr S. Bovenberg *et al.* summarises the clinical pharmacological aspects of dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA).<sup>4</sup> DHEA treatment is thought to improve mood and quality of life, and Dr Bovenberg's balanced review focuses on the indications and possible use of DHEA in clinical practice.

### CASE REPORT

Articles from this category were judged on items such as the description of the case, novel pathophysiological aspects, and clinical impact. The case report by Dr T. Jansen on a patient with pulmonary symptoms and cytoplasmic antineutrophilic cytoplasmic antibody (c-ANCA) seropositivity describes a 40-year-old man who was suspected of having Wegener's disease because of upper airway symptoms and presence of c-ANCA.<sup>5</sup> The author rejected the diagnosis of Wegener's disease despite these findings and went on to search further. Specificity analysis revealed that he was negative to antibodies for proteinase-3,

but positive to myeloperoxidase and concluded that the c-ANCA was falsely positive. This article is a prime example of cunning clinical reasoning and was commended for this aspect by the Jury members.

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Articles from this category were judged for their originality, scientific and clinical relevance, and whether a lucid hypothesis was present. The original article by Dr E. Bierdrager *et al.* focuses on the palliative treatment of patients with neoplastic superior vena cava syndrome.<sup>6</sup> They chose to treat these patients by inserting a self-expanding stent in the superior caval vein and describe their experience in 15 patients. The authors conclude that stenting of the superior caval vein prior to antitumour therapy is feasible, can be performed without major complications and probably provides a faster symptom response than conventional treatment with radiation therapy or chemotherapy.

The editor-in-chief Professor Anton Stalenhoef awarded the prizes at the 2006 Convention for Internal Medicine (Internistendagen) on 28 April 2006 in Maastricht, the Netherlands. Ultimately we hope that these high-quality papers will make it to the Journal's best cited 'hit list'.<sup>7</sup>

### REFERENCES

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3. The Editorial Board. Why the Netherlands Journal of Medicine wants your review article. *Neth J Med* 2006;64:55.
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