

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief



Jérôme Avouac

Professor Jérôme Avouac is a senior rheumatologist at Cochin Hospital, Paris and Professor at the University of Paris, Paris, France. He is responsible for a sector of day hospitalization in the Rheumatology department, whose recruitment is mainly composed of patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatic disorders. He established a standardized systematic follow-up of joint involvement and systemic complications of rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory rheumatic diseases. Based on this standardized follow-up and clinical studies, he is developing medical approaches of personalized medicine for rheumatoid arthritis. Within the "Pathogenesis And Innovative Therapies In Chronic Fibro-Inflammatory Diseases" team at the Cochin Institute (INSERM U1016 UMR8104), Prof. Avouac leads innovative projects regarding the vascular aspects of inflammatory rheumatic disorders, especially rheumatoid arthritis. He also participates in the preclinical evaluation of anti-fibrotic treatments thanks to a platform of complementary animal models with dermal, pulmonary and vascular fibrosis.

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Dear readers,

It is a great pleasure to take on the role of Editor-in-Chief of *touchREVIEWS in RMD*, and I am grateful for the opportunity to introduce myself and to share my vision for the journal.

I am a Professor of Rheumatology at Université Paris Cité and a consultant rheumatologist at Hôpital Cochin (AP-HP) in Paris, France. My clinical and academic work sits at the interface of inflammatory rheumatic diseases, translational research and medical education. My research has focused primarily on rheumatoid arthritis and systemic sclerosis, with particular interest in disease mechanisms, biomarkers of treatment response and innovative therapeutic strategies. Over the past years, this has included work on angiogenesis, tissue immunopathology, multi-omic approaches, and the development of advanced immunotherapies such as B-cell-targeted and CAR-T-cell-based strategies in autoimmune diseases.

Rheumatology is currently experiencing a period of remarkable scientific acceleration. The expansion of targeted therapies, combined with advances in immunology, genomics and translational science, is profoundly reshaping our understanding of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. At the same time, clinicians and researchers face the challenge of navigating an increasingly dense and complex body of evidence, while ensuring that scientific progress translates into meaningful improvements in patient care.

My ambition for *touchREVIEWS in RMD* is to position the journal as a trusted, accessible and clinically relevant resource that bridges cutting-edge science and everyday practice. The journal has a unique role in delivering high-quality, peer-reviewed content in a concise and educational format, designed to support clinicians, researchers and allied health professionals in keeping pace with rapid developments in the field. I am particularly keen to encourage content that integrates mechanistic insights with clinical relevance, highlights unmet needs and addresses real-world challenges in the management of rheumatic diseases.

As a free-to-access, digital-first journal, *touchREVIEWS in RMD* is well placed to foster knowledge dissemination, interdisciplinary dialogue and international collaboration. Through authoritative reviews, original research and expert perspectives, the journal can contribute to advancing both rheumatology research and patient-centred care.

I warmly invite you to engage with *touchREVIEWS in RMD*, as readers, authors, and contributors, and to take part in this collective endeavour to advance the field for the benefit of people living with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.

Jérôme Avouac

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