87 Functional autoantibodies in primary biliary cirrhosis
Peter A. Berg

89 Functional autoantibodies in primary biliary cirrhosis: a reply to Peter A. Berg
Carlo Solmi and M. Eric Gershwin

91 Fungal pattern-recognition receptors and tetraspanins: partners on antigen-presenting cells
Carl G. Figdor and Annemiek B. van Spriel

97 Exploring a regulatory role for mast cells: ‘MCregs’?
Barbara Frossi, Giorgia Gri, Claudio Tripodo and Carlo Pucilio

103 The immunobiology of aluminium adjuvants: how do they really work?
Christopher Exley, Peter Siesjö and Håkan Eriksson

110 The immunology of fibrosis: innate and adaptive responses
Georg Wick, Aleksandar Backovic, Evelyn Rabensteiner, Nadine Plank, Christian Schwentner and Roswitha Sgonc

120 Lessons learned from natural infection: focusing on the design of protective T cell vaccines for HIV/AIDS
Jeffrey D. Ahlers and Igor M. Belyakov

Forthcoming articles
Cohen’s Conjecture, Howard’s Hypothesis, and Ptashne’s Ptruth: an exploration of the relationship between affinity and specificity
Neil Greenspan

B-cells need a proper house whereas T-cells are happy in a cave: The dependence of lymphocytes on secondary lymphoid tissues during evolution
Janin Hofmann, Melanie Greter, Louis DuPasquier and Burkhard Eltze

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Zohar Yagil, Hovav Neuchrist, Christopher M. Yang, David M. Kemeny and Ehud Raz

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Richard V. Parry and Stephen G. Ward

Crosstalk pathways between Toll-like receptors and the complement system
George Haldeman-Spallart and John D. Lambris

Cover: Fibrosis is an important health problem and its pathogenetic principles are still largely unknown. Irrespective of the primary cause, fibrotic tissue is always infiltrated by mononuclear immune cells and the cytokine profile shows clear-cut proinflammatory and profibrotic characteristics. On pages 111–120 Georg Wick and colleagues discuss the innate and adaptive immune reactions associated with the development of fibrosis and the molecular basis of the profibrotic mechanisms taking place in systemic sclerosis (scleroderma), arteriosclerosis and por-silicone mammary implant fibrosis. The cover image shows the early skin lesions in the combs of UCD-200 chickens, an animal model for systemic sclerosis. Photo courtesy of Roswitha Sgonc.