**Editorial Introductions**

*Current Opinion in Rheumatology* was launched in 1989. It is one of a successful series of review journals whose unique format is designed to provide a systematic and critical assessment of the literature as presented in the many primary journals. The field of rheumatology is divided into 15 sections that are reviewed once a year. Each section is assigned a Section Editor, a leading authority in the area, who identifies the most important topics at that time. Here we are pleased to introduce the Journal’s Section Editors for this issue.

**Section Editors**

**Eric L. Matteson, MD**

Dr. Matteson received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, and his medical degree from the Friedrich-Alexander University in Erlangen Germany. He subsequently completed his internal medicine residency at the Michigan State University program in Kalamazoo Michigan, and his rheumatology fellowship at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, and obtained his Master in Public Health at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Since 1990, he has been a consultant in the Division of Rheumatology at the Mayo Clinic, where he is professor of medicine. Dr. Matteson is actively involved in patient care, medical education, clinical research and epidemiology studies as well as applied laboratory studies in the areas of rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis, and autoimmune inner ear disease. He has an extensive publication record, which includes a special interest in the history of medicine, and has authored several books and journal articles on historical topics related to the field of rheumatology. He has served on education committees and marketing and communication committees of the American College of Rheumatology, and is associate editor of *Arthritis Care and Research*.

**Gerd R. Burmester, MD**

Professor Burmester obtained his M.D. from the Hannover Medical School in 1978. After completing his Military Service in 1980, he attended the Rockefeller University, New York, as a Postdoctoral Fellow and was a visiting scholar at the Hospital for Joint Diseases, Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Between 1982 and 1988, Professor Burmester was a Resident at the Medical School of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. In 1988, he became Senior Registrar at the same University and in 1990 Professor of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology. Since 1993, he has been Professor of Medicine at the Charité University Hospital, Humboldt-University of Berlin and was the Vice Dean there between 1995 and 1997. Professor Burmester was President of the German Society of Rheumatology between 2001 and 2002 and has been Chairman of the EULAR Standing Committee of Investigative Rheumatology and Member of the Executive Committee of the European League against Rheumatism since 2002. He is also 2nd Vice President of the German Society of Rheumatology and the Spokesman of the Centre of Internal Medicine, Charité University Hospital.

Professor Burmester has received a number of awards including: Award for the Best Medical Thesis of the Hannover Medical School in 1979; Award of the German Therapy Congress in 1991; Award of the German Society for Research in Muscle Diseases in 1997; Jan van Breemen Medal, Dutch Society for Rheumatology in 1998; Scientific Award of the German Society of Surgery, Section of Biomaterials in 2000; Rune-Grubb-Lecture, University of Lund, Sweden in 2001; and the Scientific Award 2000 of the German Society for Ultrasound in Medicine 2001. He is a member of the American College of Rheumatology; the German Society for Immunology; the German Society of Rheumatology; and the German Society of Internal Medicine amongst others, is a member of a number of Editorial Boards and is the Associate Editor of the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases. Dr Burmester has published over 290 articles and his research
interests include: rheumatoid arthritis; Lyme borreliosis; immunotherapy; cellular activation mechanisms in inflammatory joint diseases; and tissue engineering.

**Ann K. Rosenthal, MD**

Dr. Rosenthal grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and attended Swarthmore College. She received her M.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed a residency in internal medicine at Strong Memorial Hospital of the University of Rochester. She received her rheumatology training at the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1990. It was in Milwaukee, mentored by Drs. Daniel McCarty, Lawrence Ryan, and Herman Cheung, that she developed her interests in calcium crystal-associated arthropathies. She received a post-doctoral fellowship from the Arthritis Foundation to begin her research career, and has been active in the field since that time. In 1996, she moved her laboratory to the Zablocki VAMC in Milwaukee and has continued to run an active laboratory at the VA. Her laboratory interests currently concern the role of the extracellular matrix in calcium crystal formation in cartilage. She is the author of over 30 publications, and has spoken at many national and international meetings. She is an associate professor of Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology at the Medical College of Wisconsin, and Chief of the Rheumatology Section at the Zablocki VAMC. Her clinical interests are in gout and calcium-crystal arthritis, as well as in paraneoplastic rheumatic syndromes. She maintains an active clinical practice, has been elected a fellow in the American College of Physicians, and is the winner of several teaching awards.