So much hope for lupus, at last

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It is my pleasure to guest edit this issue of the Quarterly Medical Review dedicated to systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). We have gathered the best experts to keep you informed on the latest developments in this complex disease. We start with Falk Hiepe who reminds us the major clinical signs and summarizes the molecular pathways involved in SLE. David Isenberg and Joy Feld introduce us to the need for appropriate outcome measures that should be used in clinical trials, but also in clinical practice. The next chapters deal with therapy. First, Nathalie Costedoat-Chalumeau et al. stress the pivotal benefits of hydroxychloroquine, the old friend, more fashionable than ever. David D’Cruz et al. warn us against an indiscriminate use of steroids, which are responsible for much damage in SLE and review the various cytotoxic regimens used to treat severe disease. The place of biologics is discussed by Jacques-Eric Gottenberg, Jean Sibilia et al., with emphasis on the first targeted therapy ever approved for SLE and on the many others potential drugs in the pipeline. Michele Petri and Tanmayee Bichile address the numerous lupus co-morbidities and discuss ways to prevent and manage them. The two last chapters are not the least important. The first, by Matthias Schneider et al., emphasize what matters for patients and advocate the use of patient’s reported outcomes. The second, by Wafaa Bono and Zubida Tazi, sheds very different light on the topic by describing the specific challenges in emerging countries. I thank my co-workers for having achieved such a comprehensive review and I wish you a pleasant reading. When closing this issue of the Quarterly Medical Review, you will be convinced, despite some falling stars, that many sparks twinkle in the sky...

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