Additional results were presented regarding belimumab, a humanized anti-B-lymphocyte stimulator (anti-BLys) antibody, showing efficacy of this medication in treating moderate-to-severe non-renal lupus. The results from the first Phase III trial were presented at the 2009 American College of Rheumatology meeting, with preliminary results of the second trial presented at the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) and the Lupus Congress. The primary outcome measure was a systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) responder index (SRI) defined as improvement in the SELENA SLEDAI by four points or more, no clinically significant British Isles Lupus Assessment Group (BILAG) worsening and no clinically significant worsening in Physician’s Global Assessment (PGA). This combined endpoint may be used in future lupus trials as well.

There were multiple presentations on pathogenesis, including the role of DNA methylation on gene expression and the importance of micro-RNAs. New treatments in clinical trials included leflunomide for lupus nephritis, already indicated in China, interferon inhibitors, and additional B cell targets, such as anti-CD22. Hopefully, this improved understanding and upcoming new treatments will result in improved outcomes in the near future.

Many thanks to the Congress organizers Drs. John Esdaile, Matt Liang, Paul Fortin, Peter Lipsky and Joan Merrill for doing a fantastic job. The 10th International Congress will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2013.

Jennifer Reynolds, MD, FRCPC
Clinical Instructor,
Division of Rheumatology,
University of British Columbia,
Vancouver, British Columbia

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**Return of the Jaded-eye**

By Fluke Jointwalker

In a galaxy, far, far away, many years ago, I was a young novitiate. This was the height of the Toronto Rheumatology Empire, and the Wellesley Hospital was the center of the thriving universe. A key to molding initiates was citywide rounds. We would gather and absorb the wisdom doled out Yoda-like by the elders: Hugh, Murray and Ed. These were Forceful personalities whose banter did more than just dispense facts, but challenged us to learn how to think, analyze, and synthesize.

But more important than the sheer enlightenment of knowledge was the esprit de corps, the sense of belonging that rounds fostered in the local rheumatology community. Rounds were a gathering, a celebration of our common interest.

Alas, time begets entropy and halcyon days fell to the darkness of solitude as rounds imploded with the demise of the Wellesley Hospital. Community and academia drifted into separate orbits and for years, many of us toiled hermit-like in the hinterlands.

Then along came Obi Wan Kagal and the York Region Journal Club was born. Mike, Carter, Jody and Allan were soon followed by Art, Wayne, Dana and Stacey, and a cast of thousands (or at least it seems like thousands based on the din in our den). The J.C., as it has been affectionately dubbed, provides our forum to learn, laugh, challenge, be challenged, and hone our cognitive chops (over the biggest shrimps and juiciest filet mignon at our designated lair).

Our model is more akin to Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, where all are equal and all perspectives thoughtfully considered. Humor and collegiality catalyze our discussions. The parts are made greater by the sum; a perpetual, curb-side consult driving improvement in patient care. What is learned in Journal Club doesn’t stay in Journal Club.

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