

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS



August 25, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2429-review.doc).

**Title: What qualifies as rheumatoid arthritis?**

**Author:** Bruce Rothschild

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Rheumatology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 1507

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

- (1) Author's affiliation provided in correct order
- (2) Core tip added
- (3) Citation 24 corrected to 23
- (4) References placed within punctuation
- (5) Conclusion inserted

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

- (1) Robinson et al.'s opinion piece now addressed. Their narrow comparison with ankylosing spondylitis, rather than the more general spondyloarthropathy categorization renders the reviewer's concern moot.
- (2) The reviewer's comments on the archeological study suggested arthritis in different stages. That is identical to what is observed clinically!
- (3) The Reviewer is concerned re rheumatoid factor titer. As that is an assay dependent on biologic activity of an immunoglobulin, such would not be preserved in a recognizable manner.
- (4) With respect to HLA, HLA-B27 has been identified in affected animals – e.g., gorillas!
- (5) Concern whether arthritis in non-human mammalian is the same disease as in humans – is perhaps best addressed by this anecdote. I presented 20 cases of psoriatic arthritis to The Society of Skeletal Radiology when I was first inducted. I was told the society presented only cutting edge research and I was chided for presenting classic cases of human disease. Then I pointed out that I had presented 20 cases of afflicted gorillas! The findings are indistinguishable from the human disease!
- (6) The reviewer suggests that their clinical experience was few cases of SpA misdiagnosed as RA. It would be interesting if the reviewer reviewed his cases according to the criteria presented in this editorial – as my experience is quite different.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Rheumatology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Rothschild', written over a light grey rectangular background.

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