

Essential reading from the editorial board

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Dear reader,

We are delighted to introduce the fall issue of *Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica*. Over the years the journal has acquired a leading position in publication of manuscripts ranging from Belgian national guidelines and position statements to original manuscripts and exceptional case reports. As shown in previous issues, the journal represents an important forum for scientific collaborations in Belgium, clinical research results of trainees and medical students, reviews, and viewpoints of eminent colleagues on a particular Belgian medical problem. In this issue, we would like to highlight some of the studies that may directly influence your clinical practice.

A large group of Belgian IBD centers present a cohort of multi-refractory ulcerative colitis patients treated with tofacitinib, an oral janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor (1). Their challenging study population previously failed anti TNF and vedolizumab therapy. This real-world study shows that the clinical effectiveness of tofacitinib was 43% (although endoscopic remission was only achieved in 9% of the population). Cremer and colleagues show that this drug is definitely a valued option in challenging and refractory cases of ulcerative colitis.

Patients with chronic idiopathic diarrhea present a clinical challenge for every gastroenterologist. 72 hour stool collections can help in identifying patients with high-volume diarrhea, and can provide insight in the underlying pathophysiology. Gelders and colleagues retrospectively analyzed 252 cases of chronic diarrhea and focused on fat and bile acid content (2). Their findings can help clinicians to identify patients with steatorrhea and/or bile acid malabsorption (especially in centers where SeCHAT scintigraphy is not available), which helps in selecting the most appropriate treatment.

In this issue, you will also find a comprehensive review on dynamic preservation techniques in liver transplantation (3). De Stefano and colleagues describe different normo- and hypothermic perfusion techniques which allow extended graft preservation, especially for extended criteria donors. This is essential reading for every hepatologist interested in advances in transplantation logistics and techniques.

As always, the *Acta* also presents you with a number of interesting and didactic case reports which are well worth reviewing.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to announce some changes to the editorial board. Guillaume Henin joined our team as the new associate editor representing BASL (Belgian Association for the study of the Liver) and steps in for Hannah van Malenstein, Ivan Borbath will replace Karen Geboes as associate editor for BGDO (Belgian Group of Digestive Oncology) and Fazia Mana and Ruffin Ntounda will jointly represent BHMSG (Belgian Helicobacter and Microbiota Study Group) instead of Rodrigo Garcés Duran. We sincerely thank Hannah, Karen and Rodrigo for their dedication to *Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica* as associate editors over the past years.

Enjoy your *Acta*,

Heiko De Schepper & Astrid Marot

References

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Submission date: 17/09/2025
Acceptance date: 17/09/2025

Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica, Vol. 88, July-September 2025