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Forward

Why publish a monothematic issue of the Journal of Ultrasound on osteoarticular ultrasonography?

The field of osteoarticular ultrasonography (OAUS) has expanded remarkably over the past decade thanks to ongoing technological improvements, the inherent advantages of ultrasound imaging itself (low cost, widespread availability, capacity for dynamic studies, excellent acceptance by patients), and its value in imaging-guided therapeutic interventions. In addition to these well-known reasons, we'd like to highlight another, which is often unjustly neglected: the enthusiasm of the sonographers who have pioneered the field of musculoskeletal ultrasonography (many of whom have authored articles in this issue). After years of study and personal research, these professionals have achieved excellent results and transformed ultrasonography into a worthy rival for more complex and costly imaging modalities like magnetic resonance.

These initial years of growth—the "pioneering phase," if you will—have been followed by ongoing diffusion of the knowledge and skills needed to perform OAUS, but this process has not occurred uniformly. Today, centers offering OAUS are distributed over our territory like spots on the coat of a leopard, with state-of-the-art centers interspersed among others offering lower-quality service. It was the desire to promote wider diffusion of the knowledge of OAUS and to improve utilization of this diagnostic tool that prompted our decision to publish this monothematic issue of the *Journal of Ultrasound*.

This volume is the first (but hopefully not the last) fruit of a collaborative accord between the **SIMS** (*Società d'imagerie MuscoloSquelettique*, a multidisciplinary society of French-speaking professionals) and the **SIUMB**, (*Società Italiana Ultrasonologia in Medicina e Biologia*). Both societies are well-known for their active contributions to continuing education, with workshops devoted to the

principles and practice of musculoskeletal imaging. The emphasis has always been on the acquisition of concrete skills through on-hands practice sessions on models or real patients under the direct supervision of experts in the field. The long years of friendship and mutual respect that bind the authors of this *Forward* have greatly facilitated the realization of this eminently didactic project by harmonizing the commitments of the individual authors.

The 12 articles included in this issue provide clear, concise descriptions of the anatomical features and principal disorders of the joints, tendons, nerves, and vascular structures of the musculoskeletal system. Readers will find useful details on anatomy, examination techniques, and the appearance of the various structures under normal and pathological conditions. And, reading between the lines, they will also appreciate -and perhaps even be infected by!- the authors' undying fascination with this sector of medical imaging.

It is our sincere hope that all of you will enjoy this monothematic issue and that it will become a useful resource in your daily practice of ultrasonography.

Supplementary material

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at [doi:10.1016/j.jus.2012.02.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jus.2012.02.004).

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