

# Introduction

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In February 2006, thanks to a Pfizer Education Grant, a group of Spanish physicians from different specialties with a common interest in infectious diseases met to discuss what they considered the most relevant articles published in the medical literature during the years 2004 and 2005 in the field of nosocomial infection and the immunocompromised patient. Seven topics were chosen, and each one was reviewed by a separate group of specialists: the topics were viral infection, bacterial infection, mycotic infection, osteo-articular infection, catheter-related infection, respiratory tract infection, and sepsis. These groups presented the state of the art in their respective area before making a critical review of what they considered to be the most interesting studies in the field.

The results were discussed at a meeting in Madrid by all the members of the groups. The present monographic issue of *ENFERMEDADES INFECCIOSAS Y MICROBIOLOGÍA CLÍNICA*

brings together the fruits of this interesting experience in the shape of seven articles. The opinions presented are the independent opinions of the signing authors and their free interpretation of these contributions to the literature.

This scientific meeting was designed so that physicians from very different areas—intensive care, internal medicine, hematology-oncology, pediatrics, microbiology, and infectious diseases—had the opportunity to present their respective visions of common and severe infection-related problems.

The meeting was a complete success and was considered extremely productive by all the participants. As coordinator of the meeting, I wish to thank all the members of the group for taking part, and to express my gratitude to Pfizer Spain, who made it possible for the results of the meeting to be published in *ENFERMEDADES INFECCIOSAS Y MICROBIOLOGÍA CLÍNICA*.

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