

EDITORIAL

Allergy epidemics, solidarity and support to countries through *Pediatric Allergy and Immunology*

DOI:10.1111/j.1399-3038.2011.01178.x

Dear readers and contributors of *Pediatric Allergy and Immunology*,

The epidemic of allergic rhinitis and asthma has attracted the attention of clinicians, scientists and public health administrators for many decades in westernized countries, and it is now raising concerns also in middle-income countries. In the last decade, a rising trend toward *food* allergies is being observed in high-income countries. As recently outlined in an outstanding and seminal review, 'food allergy is now looming as a new epidemic with vast and significant implications' (1) that 'raises a series of new and intriguing questions.' As acutely observed, this 'second wave epidemic of food allergy [...] is likely to be a major impact on healthcare provision of specialist allergy services worldwide' (1).

Just a few days after printing and distribution of the March Issue of PAI, a natural disaster disseminated death and destruction in Japan and shocked people around the world. In this critical hour, we wish to extend our condolences and offer solidarity in particular to those Japanese colleagues who continue to face challenging situations on a daily basis. With these sentiments in mind we wish to explain to our readers an unforeseen event that has occurred with regards to the cover of the March issue of PAI referring to

the above mentioned review. Obviously at the time of production, printing and distribution no one could foresee the natural disaster that was going to occur in Japan. However, that cover might be now wrongly linked to the natural disaster in Japan or other similar disasters occurring before. We believe that all our readers and contributors will understand that the use of this metaphor was not intended to offend anybody. Nevertheless, as a mark of our respect to those who might have been unintentionally offended we have replaced the cover image of the March issue on the website of PAI (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/pai.2011.22.issue-2/issuetoc>).

Lastly, we draw the attention of our readers not only to the scientific articles published in the current issue, but also to the review *Pediatric Allergy and Immunology in Turkey* (2). Turkey is a fantastic country where our specialty is growing fast. In publishing the review by our Turkish colleagues, *Pediatric Allergy and Immunology* is recognizing this trend and offers its contribution to let the world know a solid present and more brilliant future of our specialty in the country hosting in this month the EAACI 2011 Annual Meeting.

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References

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2. Çelik G, Saçkesen C, Bakırtaş A, Reisli İ & Tuncer A. Pediatric allergy and immunology in Turkey. *Pediatr Allergy Immunol* 2011;**22**:440–5.