

## Comment

*To the Editor:*

I write to expand on the very interesting findings by Coury, *et al*<sup>1</sup> regarding the ameliorating effects of coexisting fibromyalgia (FM) on inflammatory damage from rheumatoid arthritis (RA). I offer a possible explanation for their results.

We recently described cytokine and chemokine aberrations in 92 FM patients and 69 family members compared to 77 controls<sup>2</sup>. Although no inflammation existed in tissues affected by FM, we found elevated plasma concentrations of several proinflammatory proteins including tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ , interleukin 1 $\beta$  (IL-1 $\beta$ ), and interferon- $\gamma$ , among others. However, antiinflammatory potential was also manifested in the forms of elevated IL-13, IL-10, IL-4, and IL-1ra. This raises the possibility that FM evokes no inflammatory response because of this cytokine admixture. If so, this would obviously prove somewhat salutary for patients with RA.

R. PAUL St. AMAND, MD, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, Division of Medicine and Endocrinology, Los Angeles County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, California, USA.  
E-mail: RPSamand@aol.com

## REFERENCES

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2. Zhang Z, Cherryholmes G, Mao A, et al. High plasma levels of MCP-1 and eotaxin provide evidence for an immunological basis of fibromyalgia. *Exp Biol Med* 2008;233:1171-80.

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