

Reply to the comment on: The role of environmental heavy metals and the risks for autoimmunity and related rheumatic diseases

Sirs,

We wish to thank Pollard and Hultman (1) for commenting on our review “The Role of Environmental Heavy Metals and Risks for Autoimmunity and Related Rheumatic Diseases” (2). This article highlights the importance of your pioneering work, as well as the work done by other researchers on the influence of environmental factors on the development of autoimmunity. It is exciting to hear from you as protagonists of “how this scientific adventure began”. Thank you for inspiring several generations of clini-

cians and researchers who share a common interest in understanding the nature and clinical behaviour of autoimmunity.

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References

1. POLLARD KM, HULTMAN P: Comment on: The role of environmental heavy metals and the risks for autoimmunity and related rheumatic diseases. *J Environm Rheumatol* 2025.
2. HERRERA-ESPARZA R, AVALOS-DÍAZ E, RAMÍREZ-SANDOVAL R, BOLLAIN-Y-GOYTIA-DE-LA-ROSA JJ: The role of environmental heavy metals and the risks for autoimmunity and related rheumatic diseases. *J Environm Rheumatol* 2025; 2(1): 18-25. <https://doi.org/10.55563/jer/7zzcoa>