R.M. Huber: has received support from the following companies: AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Lilly, Merck, Pfizer, Pierre-Fabre and Roche (reimbursement for attending symposia, and fees for speaking, organising education and consulting).

M. Reck: has served as a compensated member on an advisory board of Hoffmann-La Roche, Lilly, Daiichi-Sankyo, BMS and AstraZeneca. He has received honoraria for lectures from Hoffmann-La Roche, Lilly, Daiichi-Sankyo and AstraZeneca.

M. Thomas: has received speaker's honoraria from Merck.

Editorial assistance for this manuscript, provided International Medical Press, was funded by Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.