London, 27 August 2019

Dear Colleagues,

The idea for a Ten Topics meeting in Madeira was born in the foyer of a hotel in Porto, during Yehuda Shoenfeld’s international immunology meeting.

Jorge Martin and Teresa Faria, very old friends, floated a plan for a Ten Topics conference in Madeira and asked my opinion.

Jorge and Teresa have a long history, not only of treating patients with autoimmune diseases in the clinic of the Hospital of the Marmeleiros in Funchal, but also of organising and hosting the outstanding Madeira Lupus Clinic biennial.

Would a Ten Topics meeting fit? Most definitely. The Ten Topics meeting format is based on brevity (2 days), short presentations, on ‘hot topics’ and most of all, with world class speakers.

The meeting is now held regularly in London, Barcelona, Buenos Aires, Beirut, the Far East and Mumbai, with plans afoot for Ten Topics in Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Italy (Turin).

When we drew the map of current Ten Topics venues on a table napkin in that hotel foyer, the dots formed a (rough) circle. With a bit of imagination, Madeira formed a dot in the centre – hence “Ten Topics in Rheumatology from the Centre of the World 2020”.

To Jorge and Teresa, my admiration and my best wishes for the success of this important educational venture.

Graham Hughes