RENAISSANCE, RECOVER, and RENEWAL: The 3 Rs

To the Editor:

I was surprised to see Parmley in his recent editorial1 referring to 3 etanercept trials by their acronyms (RENAISSANCE, RECOVER, and RENEWAL) without defining them. Commenting on my article on acronyms of cardiological trials in 1996,2 Parmley lamented in his editorial “TOTAL ABC CHAOS”3 that “readers, investigators and archivists may find the enigmatic collection of acronyms to be a hopeless puzzle, especially because each new trial brings a new and usually more creative acronym.” Unfortunately, Parmley finally succumbed to the acronymophilia fever, too.4

For those readers who may feel frustrated by not knowing what the 3 Rs are, I wish to come to their help. RENAISSANCE stands for “Randomized Etanercept North American Strategy to Study Antagonism of Cytokines,” RECOVER stands for “Research into Etanercept: Cytokine antagonism in Ventricular dysfunction,” and RENEWAL stands for “Randomized Etanercept Worldwide evaluation.”5

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