

Reflections on One Year of RRNMF — Managing Editor Perspective

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I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as a Managing Editor of the *RRNMF Neuromuscular Journal*. I was introduced to Dr. Barohn and the journal through Breanna Tuhlei at the start of my second year at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine. I am currently finishing the last week of M2 year, preparing to take the USMLE Step 1 exam in a month, and then will be taking a leave of absence to embark on a 1-year Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Pathology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA. As a neuroscience major equipped with a revamped interest in the neuromuscular discipline, I hope to devote part of this upcoming year to neuropathology specialty work and research.

The managing editorial position at *RRNMF Neuromuscular Journal* has been like no other role I have ever held. Having founded an undergraduate organization, carried out multiple quality improvement projects, and directed a Women's Health Community Clinic, I approached the role with eagerness for the engagement and commitment this opportunity would demand. I looked forward to the illuminating experience of managing workflow, copyediting, and interacting with authors and reviewers. What I didn't expect, however, was how phenomenal the *RRNMF* staff members would be. It is inspiring to watch Dr. Barohn speak passionately of new submissions, articles he is selecting for upcoming issues, and the cherished art pieces he intends to put on the future issue covers. I also revere his vehement stance towards public access of novel medical research and encouragement of uncomplicated publication and dialogue of contemporary neuromuscular revelations. Another phenomenal team member I have had the privilege of working with is Marianne Reed – the QUEEN of publishing editors. She has been incredibly resourceful and patient with all of us as we have learned the ropes of our roles, all carried out with her trademarked humor and verve. Eric, our layout editor, is an outright beast when it comes to prompt galley production and revisions; Breanna and I are two Managing Editors-in-a-pod when cranking out our shares of the workload. Lastly, I have discovered the immense

value of peer reviewers' time, expertise, and constructive recommendations. Their generosity noticeably makes a difference in our publications, and it is inspiring to see how this process far often strengthens the scientific argument and leads to high quality output. I am privileged to be a part of this team and proud of the influence the journal has had.

I have also been impressed with the incredible efficiency and rapid troubleshooting that our staff has carried out in a short amount of time. Through multiple workflow meetings and discussions, swift trial-and-error turnaround, and the assignment of clearly defined roles, we have put protocols and measures in place that have spawned a culture of efficiency, transparency, and accountability. It has been incredibly rewarding to witness improvements with each issue publication as we gain more and more experience. The Open Journal System (OJS) website has been an additional massive convenience – allowing the seamless transition of text through the various workflow stages: submission, peer-review, revisions, copyediting, layout, page proofing, and publication. A complete history of every submission is conveniently in one place for easy access and reference, which allows us all to stay on top of the workflow from wherever we are.

Finally, and perhaps the most rewarding aspect of this role, observing such important and novel research submitted to this journal has been such an intellectually fulfilling experience. I have had the privilege of observing how the neuromuscular discipline is evolving through an unparalleled lens. Whenever I log into OJS, I first eagerly peruse through the new submission titles, catching a glimpse of the topics I will soon have the chance to systematically explore. Where the real fun begins is the copyediting stage. This process requires me to meticulously comb through each article looking for spelling and grammar errors; inadvertently, this offers me an uninterrupted opportunity to comprehend the material at a profound and dynamic level. As I read through manuscripts, it's exhilarating to anticipate how these novel findings may become cited primary sources in the textbooks and guidelines that I use as a medical student and will continue to refer to as a physician. It reminds me that our knowledge of medicine is constantly evolving and that by committing to a role in medicine you also commit to becoming a life-long learner and, hopefully, a contributor to new discoveries and knowledge to pass on to the next generation of students and physicians.