What’s On Your Mind?
Letter from the Founding Facilitator for Volume 2, Issue 5

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This is the final issue of Volume 2 for the year 2021. To open Issue 5/Volume 2 we have three additional pieces (in addition to this founding facilitator introduction) in the “What’s On Your Mind?” section. The first is from a woman with ALS named Marcie Gibson. Marcie has been a patient of mine since 1994 when I diagnosed her with ALS at age 23. I asked her to write an article about her journey with ALS. Her journey has been remarkable, and she provided a wonderful piece of writing. Next is another terrific article from Dr. Josh Freeman’s blog. From the view of a family medicine doctor, Dr. Freeman discusses the controversial FDA approval of the new drug for Alzheimer’s disease, which was made over the objection of the FDA advisory panel. Finally, in the “Proposed Stuff – Old Stuff” section is a wonderful poem by Thomas Trevor and Dr. Hani Kushlaf written from the perspective of a patient with inclusion body myositis (IBM). Thomas has IBM and Dr. Kushlaf is a neuromuscular physician. The other piece are lyrics to a song that Walter Anderson wrote called “AIN’T NO SENSE” that was inspired by Dwight Jones who was recently released from prison in California after serving 21 years of a life sentence for a crime he did not commit. Walter’s daughter, Adrian, is a newly minted attorney who works for the Loyola Project For the Innocent who was instrumental in obtaining his release from prison.

In the “Other Good Stuff- Art Stuff” section is a painting of hers on Vol 2; Issue 4 that is in my collection and on this issue are two more. The other piece are lyrics to a song that Walter Anderson wrote called “AIN’T NO SENSE” that was inspired by Dwight Jones who was recently released from prison in California after serving 21 years of a life sentence for a crime he did not commit. Walter’s daughter, Adrian, is a newly minted attorney who works for the Loyola Project For the Innocent who was instrumental in obtaining his release from prison.

Finally, in December we held the annual Kansas City Consortium on Musculoskeletal Disorders (KCMD) at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) campus. This annual event is sponsored by four universities: UMKC; University of Missouri-Columbia; University of Kansas Medical Center; and Kansas City University (the region’s osteopathic medical school). It is a lively meeting in which science is presented from the neuromuscular and musculoskeletal fields. This year we once again had a number of interesting presentations, many by students. KCMD has a pilot grant program for investigators from these institutions who want to collaborate across university lines on research and several of the presentations were a result of these projects. I am pleased to be able to publish the abstracts from this meeting.

Our cover this month is again from the wonderful artist Jessica Wohl. We had a painting of hers on Vol 2; Issue 4 that is in my collection and on this issue are two more. The
pink painting is called “Smile for Grandma” and the blue painting is called “Erwin at the Buffet Table”. I saw these in the early 2000s at a gallery event in the Crossroads area of Kansas City on a First Friday event. I initially purchased the grandma painting from Jessica because the woman reminded me of my grandmother (I think she looks like many grandmas!) Jessica told me she painted a series of paintings inspired from a 1960s wedding photo album in her family. The “Erwin” painting was from that series as well. Later I purchased the “Raymond” painting at a Village Shalom art auction that was on the cover of Vol 2, issue 4. All are up on the walls in our house in Columbia, Missouri now and they have been great favorites of folks viewing the collection. I have one or two more of Jessica’s I may put on the journal’s cover with her permission.

As we close 2021, I want to thank the authors and facilitators who have supported the journal. I also want to thank our outstanding medical student editors Breanna Tuhlei and JiJi Oufattole, our undergraduate journal assistant Lauren Peck, and of course our outstanding KU digital press team of Marianne Reed and Eric Bader. I appreciate all of you so very much. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Rick