

Letter from the Founding Facilitator for Volume 3, Issue 3

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We, the RRNMF NM Journal team, are glad to publish Volume 3, issue 3 of the journal. This is the third year we are privileged to publish the abstracts and proceedings of the annual Neuromuscular Study Group, which is being held in northern Italy from Sept 30 to Oct 2. We changed the organization's name from the MSG to the NMSG to reflect that we are home to not only muscle researchers but also researchers in the field of motor neuron disease and peripheral neuropathy. This year the meeting has an all-time high number of registered participants and abstracts. I am sure it will be an exciting event in a beautiful part of the world.

We also have another packed issue with many exciting publications. My good friend Josh Freeman has again allowed us to publish his wonderful pieces from his blog. We have decided to publish two of his great editorials in our What's on Your Mind forum. Another well-known family medicine physician, Dr. Don Frey, also has a blog site, and in this issue, we publish another of his pieces.

I asked another good friend, Bud (Vernon) Rowe, for more examples of his creative writing. He has provided us with another poem and a short prose piece which I am sure you will enjoy.

This issue is loaded with Clinic Stuff. Dr. Wright from the University College London Hospitals has an interesting case of recurrent rhabdomyolysis in the setting of autosomal dominant scoliosis. A transthyretin mutation case presenting as a small fiber neuropathy is from Dr. Desai and the team at Vanderbilt. An atypical limb-girdle presentation of myasthenia gravis is from Dr. Luster and the military neurology team in San Antonio.

A Case of CIDP with IgG tubulin autoantibodies comes from the Dr. Giacobbe group at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Zachary McKee and our distinguished Associate Editor, Dr. Yuebing Li, at the Cleveland Clinic have three lymphoma cases with engaging neuromuscular and neurologic presentations. Drs. Hans, Dimachkie, and Bhai have a very novel case of exercise-induced rhabdomyolysis due to mitochondrial pathogenesis, which required both cycle exercise testing and DNA analysis from the muscle tissue to confirm a diagnosis. And finally, Dr. Nakul Katyal was a senior neurology resident with me and Dr. Ensrud at U of Missouri when we saw a patient in the clinic with what we believe is primary lateral sclerosis and who had the ear of the lynx sign on MRI. Most cases published with this interesting MRI finding have had hereditary spastic paraparesis. There is a wide range of clinic stuff to learn from.

We already have most of the manuscripts for Vol 3, issue 4, which we plan to publish in late November or December. Please continue to send in your cases and new stuff manuscripts. Also, do not forget to send us your grants and critiques on whether or not the grant was funded. To date, only our neuromuscular group in Missouri/Kansas has taken advantage of this unique publishing opportunity.

The art on the cover is a famous painting of Giuliano de' Medici by Sandro Botticelli. It is in the National Portrait Gallery in Washing, DC (the Smithsonian). It is a wonderful painting. And it is appropriate to have this on the journal's cover of the issue when we publish the abstracts and information about the annual Neuromuscular Study Group (NMSG) meeting that is being held in Italy, just north of Milan. The Medici family were the rulers of Florence in Tuscany in the 1400s and 1500s. Giuliano de' Medici (1453-1478) was the co-leader of Florence with his brother Lorenzo until he was assassinated. Giuliano was a great patron of the arts.

Hope to see many of you in Italy for the NMSG. If you want to stream the NMSG meeting contact Liz Paulk (epaulk@kumc.edu).

- Rick