Letter from the Founding Facilitator for Volume 4, Issue 1

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This is the first issue of the fourth volume of the RRNMF Neuromuscular Journal. In this issue we again have two challenging "What's on your Mind?" pieces by Drs. Freeman and Frey. They continue to keep us thinking about what is imperfect in our health care system and how we can improve it. The "New Stuff" section has a number of interesting research articles. Dr. Li and the Duke group conducted a survey of myasthenia gravis patients to determine what effect the COVID-19 pandemic had on them. Dr. Katyal and colleagues focus on myasthenia gravis as well but from another perspective. They collected data on comorbid events in the first year of immunotherapy treatment. Dr. Bhai and my colleagues prepared a manuscript describing a prospective study on the effects of testosterone and transcutaneous muscle stimulation on strength and muscle mass in myotonic dystrophy. I think this article may win a record for the longest gestation time between a study being done and publication. I can briefly tell you the story about this. In 1986 when I was a fellow at the Ohio State University, Seth Kolkin, the outgoing fellow, and I as the incoming fellow, completed this study with John Kissel and Jerry Mendell. We did present it at the American Academy of Neurology and the abstract was published, but for reasons I still cannot recall we did not write the manuscript up. I have been carrying my file of this study around for decades. Recently, in my move from Kansas to Missouri, I uncovered the file. I worked with Salman, John Kissel and Seth Kolkin to create this manuscript which I still believe has relevant findings. So, a 27-year gestation! In the "Clinic Stuff" category, Adam Reynolds and Seattle team report a novel DOK-7 mutation causing a limb-girdle phenotype of congenital myasthenic syndrome. Drs. Jajwa Al-Bustani and Zulfqar Hussain report a case of a steroid responsive acute inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy induced by an immune check point inhibitor. In the third "Clinic Stuff" article, Nahee Park and colleagues at the Medical College of Wisconsin report a 21-month-old child with spinal muscular atrophy with a BICD2 mutation rather than the typical SMN1 chromosome 5 mutation. In the "Meeting Stuff" section I am pleased to report on the annual KCMD (Kansas City Musculoskeletal Disorders) Symposium held in December 2022. The agenda for the meeting and the abstracts are included. The KCMD group consists of investigators from the University of Kansas Medical Center, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City University, and the University of Missouri- Columbia.

The artwork on the cover is from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and is a portrait of a man by one of my favorite Italian renaissance artists, Agnolo Bronzino.

Rick