

## Letter from the Founding Facilitator for Volume 4, Issue 2

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Welcome to the latest issue of the RRNMF Neuromuscular Journal, in which we have many interesting publications for you to read and enjoy.

In our What's on Your Mind? section, Josh Freeman provides us with another analysis of the inequities of access to healthcare and pleads for more primary care and no financial barriers for anyone. I really enjoy that Josh allows us to publish his pieces in a super-specialized neuromuscular journal! Josh is, of course, a family medicine physician, and over our decades of friendship we have had many discussions on how we both see health care from different perspectives: He from primary care and me as a super specialist. I think it is good for us specialists to always be cognizant of the primary care physicians' viewpoint on what we do.

We also have two pieces that I first wrote for my "Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs/Dean messages," which I send to all the faculty and employees at the University of Missouri School of Medicine and the University of Missouri Healthcare system twice a month. I adapted them for publication in this journal. I wrote the first one for Black History month, and it is about Dr. Louis Tompkins Wright, a surgeon who became one of the pioneers of oncology and was a legend in the New York medical community and beyond. I also mention his equally-famous daughter, Dr. Jane Wright, who took over her father's cancer research when he died and made significant contributions in the field of chemotherapy.

My second piece was written for Women's History Month, and I provide five very brief vignettes on some of my heroes of medicine who happen to be women: Rosalind Franklin; Florence Nightingale; Helen Keller; Marie Curie, and Mary Walker. I have pictures of all of them hanging in my office at the University of Missouri.

In the Clinic Stuff category, Dr. Scott and the pathology team at the University of Missouri wrote up a case of cryptococcal meningitis in an immunocompetent man to remind us that this does occur. Dr. Jeff Elliott, my colleague from my UT Southwestern days, describes a 23-year-old woman with a congenital myasthenia syndrome due to a novel mutation in the MUSK gene. Dr. Jeremy Hill and our very own associate journal facilitator Dr. Yuebing Li provide a description of a generalized myasthenia gravis patient having an exacerbation after receiving the BRAF inhibitor vemurafenib and the MEK inhibitor cobimetnib for metastatic melanoma. Our colleagues in neurology at the Medical College of Wisconsin, including Brittany Bureau and my old friend Paul Barkhaus, report a fascinating case of numb chin syndrome from cancer that is atypical and spread

to involve the ipsilateral maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve—so NCS Plus! The Wisconsin group pointed out that Charles Bell (of Bell's palsy fame) first described the NCS. I did not know that.

In the New Stuff category, I was glad to see the report by Dr. Nakul Katyal and Dr. Raghav Govindarajan from when they were in the neurology department at the University of Missouri, in which they report the lack of effectiveness of eculizimab in three cases of generalized myasthenia gravis. We are all excited about the introduction of complement inhibitors into the treatment armamentarium for MG, but it is important to be aware they do not have an effect in all cases. Our colleagues at the University of Miami, Dr. Carbanar, Dr. Gultekin, and Dr. Saporta, report two cases of distal myofibrillar myopathy with new pathogenic mutations in the DES gene that codes for desmin.

I am so happy to see the paper on quantitative sensory testing in neuropathy patients finally get published. I started this study with colleagues at UT Southwestern in the 1990s and the data has been sitting in my files for a LONG TIME. I finally retrieved it and was delighted when a group of younger neuromuscular docs agreed to analyze it and put it in order. We performed QST testing on over 500 consecutive patients that we were seeing for peripheral neuropathy to see if it had much utility to separate out patients. Dave Saperstein had presented this at a meeting and we had published an abstract, but we never did a detailed analysis and manuscript until now. I am indebted to Alexis Lizarraga, Salman Bhai and Morgan McCreary for taking the time to analyze and describe the data. A group of colleagues from New York, Boston, California and Ohio, led by Jonathan Morena, describes two new cases of facial onset sensory and motor neuronopathy (FOSMN), and did all of us great service by analyzing 98 other published cases to give us a very complete picture of what is known so far about this unusual multiple cranial neuropathy.

Finally in the New Stuff category, Dr. Kanatas and Dr. Stathopoulos from Athens, Greece and Dr. O'Connor from Yale provide an in depth discussion on the status of CD20 depletion therapy in myasthenia gravis.

In the Other Stuff section, Bud and Betsy Rowe co-authored a prose piece they call "Survival of the Fittest." Dr. Michael Abraham, our poet laureate in the neurology department at the University of Kansas, has allowed us to publish another of his wonderful poems. And finally, a brilliant medical student at the University of Kansas, Vincent Czerwinski, wrote a wonderful prose piece about a hospital experience by his protagonist "Rick"... I loved that.

The cover art is a Vermeer. I thought you can never go wrong with a Vermeer. The painting of a woman using a renaissance-era scale to weigh an object was fitting for the issue highlighting Women's History Month. This painting is in the National Gallery in Washington DC--a Smithsonian museum--and thus can be printed without permission because we, US citizens, all own it!

Rick