

Message from the Founding Facilitator for Volume 4, Issue 4

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For Volume 4, Issue 4 we have a number of outstanding contributions to the RRNMF Neuromuscular Journal. In the “What’s on your mind?” category, once again Drs. Freeman and Frey have thought provoking articles on the nature of health care delivery in the United States. Dr. Bill Campbell gives his empathetic view on a neuromuscular neurologist, Dr. Rick Olney, who was diagnosed with and died from ALS. Medical student Vincent Czerwinski provides insight into both how the care giver and the child patient must feel in the clinical setting in the face of a rare muscle disease.

In Clinic Stuff, Dr. Mahmoud and colleagues at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Saint Luke’s Hospital describe a case of pembrolizumab-induced myasthenia, myocarditis and myositis. Dr. Savaj and colleagues at Hinduja hospital, Mumbai report a case of neurolymphomatosis infiltrating the brachial plexus. The neurology group at the Medical University of South Carolina led by Drs. Rajan, Ruzhansky and others present a fascinating case and family with an autosomal dominant ATXN2 gene mutation that presented with either an ALS or a spinocerebellar atrophy phenotype in various family members. Dr. Morena and colleagues in both New York and Pennsylvania report a case of an intra neural ganglion cyst of the perineal nerve at the lateral knee and review the literature. Finally, Medical student Vincent Czerwinski (who wrote the What’s on Your Mind piece) and his mentors at the University of Kansas Medical Center describe a child with an RYR1 mutation who was managed for respiratory failure and exhibited imaging evidence of leukoencephalopathy in the caudate and putamen that they suggest cannot be explained by hypoxia.

In the New Stuff section, Dr. Pasnoor and my colleagues at Kansas, Texas, Ohio and Buffalo at long last report a project we began in the early 1990s. We created a detailed coding system for neuromuscular disorders and five institutions utilized this for a number of years, both prior to the advent of electronic medical records (EMR) and during the early years of EMR. The goal was to categorize patients better than the ICD9 and subsequently the ICD10 could. I think our attempt was a valiant one and there are some lessons learned. I still believe this system or a modification of it could be useful on a wider basis, but it would have to be embedded into the EMRs, which seems unlikely to happen.

Finally, we have a Meeting Stuff section for this issue in which we publish the abstracts presented at the annual NMSG meeting. This organization used to be called the MSG and a year ago we officially changed the name. This year the meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida. Our goal is to publish the abstracts just before the meeting is held.

I once again would like to thank our lead medical student editor, Jihane “Jiji” Oufattole who works tirelessly to copyedit manuscripts and also sends notices to authors on the status of their papers. Jiji is now in her fourth year of medical school at the University of Missouri and she has been assisting us for several years. She is training a new group of MIZZOU medical students to take over for when she graduates in 2024. I also want to thank our superb digital press editors, Marianne Reed and Eric Bader. We cannot get an issue out without them.

Since we began the journal, Drs. Michael Pulley and Yuebing Li have served as associate facilitators. They also deserve a huge “Thank You” from me. I am pleased to announce we have a new associate facilitator, Dr. Salman Bhai from UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Dr. Bhai represents the next generation of leaders for this journal. Also, Lauren Peck, an undergraduate at the University of Missouri, is now officially our undergraduate facilitator. Lauren has been helping with various journal functions and we greatly appreciate her involvement.

For this issue’s cover art, we are reproducing the incomparable painting in the Vatican by Raphael, “School of Athens.” This amazing true classic work of art is appropriate for the issue that houses our annual NMSG proceedings. The fictitious school of Athens with Socrates, Aristotle, and other scholars is a nice image symbolizing how thought leaders gather to advance knowledge. This can happen at academic meetings of any kind: Athens or Orlando. Gatherings of academics and their sponsors can occur anywhere. Recall Raphael was sponsored by the Vatican to make this work of art, just as the NMSG has sponsors to make it possible to hold our annual meetings. It is also appropriate to use this cover after the successful publication of the proceedings of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America meeting in Volume 4, Issue 3 of this journal. We would like this journal to become a place for neurologic scholars to publish their meeting proceedings—just like the School of Athens!

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