

## Letter from the Founding Facilitator for Volume 6, Issue 2

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This issue of the journal begins again with editorials from two of our frequent contributors, Josh Freeman and Don Frey, both former chairs of family medicine (Josh at University of Kansas Medical Center and Don at Creighton University School of Medicine). Another editorial is from a patient with ALS, Elizabeth Greenstein, and her son, Ethan (her caregiver), who comment on an earlier publication by Dr. Richard Bedlack on the challenges of FDA approval for new drugs for ALS. The Greensteins agree with Dr. Bedlack and implore healthcare policy makers to reduce the barriers that exist.

The University of Kansas Medical Center neuromuscular group has two reports. One is a report of two cases of neuropathy due to nitrous oxide. The other is an interesting report of a challenging case of neuropathy in the context of the POEMS syndrome.

A case report from neurologists in Columbia, Missouri and Salt Lake City, Utah report a patient with myasthenia gravis who received eculizumab and then developed hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis and raises the question: is there a relationship? Dr. Michael Abraham, a neurologist at the University of Kansas Medical Center, once again graces the journal with one of his exquisite poems.

We are saddened by the passing of three giants in neuromuscular disease. Dr. Julaine Florence, a leader in developing and performing clinical trials in Duchenne muscular dystrophy and who had a long career at Washington University medical school died too young. Dr. John Kissel and I have written some comments on her career and impact in this issue along with her obituary. Dr. Robert Daroff, a world renowned neuropathologist and myasthenia gravis expert, spent most of his distinguished career in Cleveland at Case Western Reserve. He served many years as chair of the neurology department and also served as the editor of *Neurology* for many years. I still recall the trepidation I had when I sent my early manuscripts to *Neurology* because they would be returned with his many editorial comments and corrections in RED pencil. I enjoyed interacting with Dr. Daroff at the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America meetings over many years. With his many years in health

care leadership positions, I also always could look to him to give sound advice and feedback on difficult issues. His obituary was recently published in both *Neurology* and *Annals of Neurology* (1) (2). Dr. Peter James Dyck spent all of his career at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester Minnesota. At Mayo, he essentially developed the academic field of peripheral neuropathy. The author of the major textbook, called *Peripheral Neuropathy*, and hundreds of scholarly papers, many of which have been pivotal in our current understanding of peripheral nerves and nerve pathology, his impact has been enormous. He began a peripheral nerve fellowship at Mayo and trained scores of neurologist who themselves became leaders in the field. Because of both his scholarly productivity and his role as a mentor to many, Dr. Dyck had an enormous impact in the field of neuromuscular disease. The body of work of these three giants will have a lasting legacy that will continue to influence future generations.

The cover art for this issue is by the great Pieter Bruegel the Elder. The painting, from 1565, is called "The Harvesters" and it portrays life in the fields in the July to August time period in the Netherlands. Bruegel painted a six-part series depicting different times of the year. "The Harvesters" shows workers during a hot day doing a number of things: some working, or eating, or laying down. A great summer painting. It seemed appropriate for our summer August issue. The painting hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and is a public domain image free to the public.

The next issue of this journal will contain, among other items, the abstracts and program for the annual Neuromuscular Study Group meeting. This is the official journal for the NMSG. This year's meeting is Sept. 26 to 28 and once again it is in Stresa, Italy on beautiful Lake Maggiore. More information about the September meeting is at the end of this issue.

Rick

### References

1. DeGeorgia M, Leigh R, Sila C. Robert B. Daroff, MD (1936–2025). *Neurology*. 2025; 105 (1): doi: [10.1212/WNL.0000000000213816](https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.0000000000213816).
2. Leigh, R.J., Ruff, R.L. and Devereaux, M. (2025), In Memoriam: Robert B. Daroff, MD (8/3/1936–1/12/2025). *Ann Neurol*, 97: 807-808. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ana.27232>