

Letter from the Editor in Chief and Founding Editor for Volume 6, Issue 4

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I am happy to make some opening remarks for Volume 6, Issue 4 of the RRNMF Neuromuscular Journal.

Once again Dr. Josh Freeman has written an insightful editorial on the state of health care in the United States, addressing the profits of health insurance companies.

Dr. Soontrapa, Dr. Pinto and Dr. Dyck from the Mayo Clinic reported a detailed investigation of 278 patients over a 20-year period with peripheral nerve vasculitis and examined vessel size categorization on nerve biopsy. Of the 278 patients, 125 had large-arteriole vasculitis and 153 had microvasculitis. The authors present several interesting and useful clinical comparisons between the two groups.

Dr. Johnson and the team at the University College London published a retrospective series of 100 adult spinal muscular atrophy patients, examining bone health, frequency of fractures and the relationship to ambulation, bone density, and vitamin D status.

Dr. Longde and two colleagues from India provide a case report of a Guillain-Barre Syndrome patient presenting with respiratory failure. Ultimately, the patient demonstrated other pharyngeal and limb weakness and was found to have thyroid cancer. They point out that it is uncommon for GBS to present with isolated ventilatory manifestations and raise the question of a possible paraneoplastic relationship.

In the Review Article section, we are publishing another lecture given at the University of Kansas Department of Neurology neuromuscular course, titled "The evaluation of muscle disorders after patients have been placed in a phenotypic pattern." This is a talk usually given by Dr. Todd Levine and is a follow-up talk on the 10 patterns of muscle and neuromuscular junction disorders, in which the clinician attempts to place a patient into a pattern category before ordering any laboratory tests. We published that earlier lecture in the RRNMF Neuromuscular Journal

Volume 5, Issue 2 in 2024. The lecture published in this issue discusses the laboratory approach to the various disorders and refers back to the pattern they were most likely placed in.

Also, in the Review Article section, I am publishing the first in a series on the history of neurology. A number of years ago, when I was at the University of Kansas, I would give the neurology residents short vignettes on the history of neurology. I usually gave these talks immediately after morning report on Monday every week. So, I had a captive audience, and they got a dose of the history of neurology whether they wanted it or not! I enjoyed doing the research in my files to put together these presentations. Some of them I subsequently recorded and, for a time, they were on the Department of Neurology website. Alas, since I left KU so have the videos on the website. A few remain on YouTube, including the one I am publishing in this issue. It is called "The Tale of Two Toms" and it is about the incredible visionary renaissance physicians Thomas Willis and Thomas Sydenham. We have provided the link to my old YouTube video. I have not written these up and published them before and plan to publish as many as I can while I can in this journal.

We are also pleased to include a lovely poem by Dr. Ariaiah Leday who is an internal medicine intern in San Antonio. Dr. Leday wrote this poem based on an interview she did with a patient with ALS.

Finally, a few abstracts from the recent NMSG meeting in Italy did not appear in the last issue and we are now including them for completeness.

In December we like to have winter cover art. The painting on the cover is "The Louvre under Snow" by Camille Pissarro. It is generally housed at the National Gallery in London but is currently on loan to the Denver Art Museum until February 2026. It is a beautiful image. We are able to show this image as it is licensed for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons agreement with the National Gallery, London.

Please continue to send in your creative neuromuscular work: case reports, original contributions, review articles and yes even poems and prose.

Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays!