

Letter from the Founding Editor for Volume 7, Issue 2

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Volume 7, Issue 2 is here, and this is a big issue. The September issue is always large because it contains all of the abstracts and proceedings of the annual Neuromuscular Study Group (NMSG) meeting. This year, the NMSG will be in beautiful San Antonio, Texas, where I spent over two decades, first in the US Air Force and then at the University of Texas medical schools in San Antonio and Dallas. I have long wanted to hold the annual NMSG event in San Antonio and in my favorite old-school hotel, the Menger, which is immediately adjacent to the Alamo. A picture-perfect setting for a medical meeting. We publish the abstracts a couple of weeks before the meeting. This year, the meeting will be from September 24 to September 27.

In this issue, we once again have insightful editorials by Dr. Josh Freeman about health care in America that he originally put on his blog site. Dr. Freeman graciously allows us to publish them in this journal. In one editorial, Dr. Freeman focuses on how to improve the situation of primary care physicians by increasing their reimbursement for doing procedures. Dr. Freeman says this is an idea supported by the current Secretary of HHS, Robert F. Kennedy. So, Dr. Freeman says he can now agree with Secretary Kennedy on a topic! In the second editorial, Dr. Freeman discusses the dangers of large corporations like CVS creating vertical integration systems that increase their profits, but at the detriment of patients.

Also in the editorial section is a piece by Suzann Beaupark. Suzann has myasthenia gravis (MG), and she wrote a nice piece on MG in a previous issue. In this article, Suzann reminds health care providers not to dismiss non-motor symptoms of patients simply because they at first do not seem to fit the classical picture of MG. This is an important article because it is written from the patient's perspective.

In the new research section, Dr. Furukawa provides a detailed analysis of surface electromyography (EMG) during sustained muscle contraction. Drs. Shabani, Hussain, and Alexis Taylor conducted a fascinating analysis of online physician ratings in an outpatient neuromuscular practice and came to some interesting conclusions. A large group of doctors from the National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry in Tokyo, Japan, led by Dr. Huki Kondo, conducted a study correlating muscle strength in 18 inclusion body myositis (IBM) patients with various functional abilities.

In the case report section, Dr. Schneider and colleagues from the Medical College of Wisconsin describe a case of unilateral hypoglossal nerve palsy following intubation. Mary O'Rourke and Dr. Erica Seidel at the University of Minnesota

Medical School and the Minneapolis VA Medical Center describe a case of complex regional pain syndrome following needle electromyography. A group of clinicians at St. Luke's Medical Center in Kansas City (A. Kuenzel and Drs. Nathan McGraw and Stephanie Kolakowsky-Hayner) describe a sensory ganglionopathy paraneoplastic syndrome in the setting of pulmonary carcinoid.

The reviews section contains a number of articles. We once again publish the lecture turned into an article from our neuromuscular review course. This one is titled "The Diagnosis and Management of Immune-Mediated Polyneuropathies" and is first authored by Jon Katz, with myself, Todd Levine, Dave Saperstein, Mamatha Pasnoor, and Mazen Dimachkie as co-authors. I also continue to publish my lectures turned into articles on the history of neurology and neuroscience. There are four such pieces in this issue, and all focus on the epicenters of the developing field of neurology in Europe in the 1800s in England, France, and Germany-Austria.

The first is on Charles Bell and Francois Magendie and the Bell-Magendie law of sensory input and motor output in the spinal cord. Next, there is a review on the famous Queen Square hospital, in which legions of neurologists were trained by the greats in British medicine, such as Gowers, Jackson, Wilson, and many others. I then go across the English Channel to France and the school of neurologists led by Jean Charcot at the Salpêtrière, as well as other notable French neurologists from the 1800s. In the fourth article, I focus on such well-known neurologists in Germany and Austria as Romberg, Wernicke, Alzheimer, Westphal, Oppenheim, Erb, Jolly... and, of course, Freud. But then we end on a sad note with the infamous neurologists and psychiatrists from this era (Emil Kraepelin, Julius Wagner-Jauregg, Hans Berger, Julius Hallervorden, and Hugo Spatz) who were anti-Semitic and Nazis. The cautionary warning is: It can happen here.

The cover art for this issue is once again from the University of Missouri Museum of Art and Archaeology. It is a pastel on paper by Robert F. Bussabarger called *Galveston House*. I looked through the museum's collections for a work of art that is Texas-based in honor of the NMSG meeting in San Antonio. The museum did not have any classic San Antonio or Alamo images. But this painting of an old house in Galveston is very reminiscent of homes built in the late 1800s and early 1900s in other Texas cities, including San Antonio. San Antonio has a historic area from that era called the King William district, where immigrants from Germany and other European countries settled to begin new lives in America. When I lived in San Antonio, I lived in an old home in the King William district, and this painting by Bussabarger reminds me so much of that era and region. Mary Nau Hunter, the interim director of the University of Missouri Museum of Art and Archaeology, has again provided us with more information about the art and the museum.