

Report of the Editor-in-Chief

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I shall outline some initiatives that the Journal has undertaken with the advice and support of Dr. Zochodne, past Editor-in-Chief, the Associate Editors and the staff in Calgary-Cindy Leschyshyn, Maggie McCallion and Dan Morin:

1. *Publication rate*: we are pleased that the Board has agreed to increase the number of publications from 4 to 6 per year in 2008. The Journal will be mailed in the following months: March, May, July, September, November and January 2009 and so on to get us on the most agreeable 6 issue cycle.

2. *Electronic Submissions and Reviews*: AllenTrack, a company based in Kansas, has been working closely with the Journal to operationalize a system that will allow for electronic submissions of manuscripts, direction of manuscripts from the Journal office to Associate Editors and then to selected reviewers, and back again. The process will speed up reviews and allow a more steady flow to the Editors and reviewers. Along with the increased publication rate, this will allow submitted manuscripts to be published in a more timely manner. We can also more easily keep track of reviewers, their interests and compliance. This was initiated in December, 2007. There is no going back!

3. *Associate Editors*: Once the Journal has the AllenTrack system in place, it is planned that the Associate Editors will play a more direct role in initially reviewing papers in their respective areas, selecting reviewers and reviewing their reviews.

We have created two more Associate Editor categories:

a.) A basic science Associate Editor: Dr. Mike Poulter, a neurophysiologist and neurochemist in London Ontario, has taken on this role.

b.) Co-Associate Editors for evidence-based clinical neuroscience: Drs. Jorge Burneo and Mary Jenkins, who are co-chairs of EBN at the University of Western Ontario, have taken on this responsibility, with the plan to publish critical reviews of various topics in neurology, neurosurgery, child neurology and clinical Neurophysiology. One review will be present in each issue of the Journal. Before this is done, we should publish an editorial article that explains the methodology and classification system used for such critiques. Dr. Sam Wiebe has kindly agreed to act as consultant for this endeavour.

c.) Dr. Serge Gauthier is our new Associate Editor for the specialty of Neurology.

4. *Planned Journal Supplements*:

a.) The Canadian League Against Epilepsy is working with the Journal to publish the proceedings of a symposium held in Vancouver October 2-4, 2007. The symposium contained basic science, epidemiological and clinical presentations and was held to honour the career of Dr. Juhn Wada.

b.) The Journal will again be working with the Canadian Association of Neuroscience to publish the abstracts of their annual meeting.

5. *CPCs and Grand Rounds*: I have been working with Drs. Rob Hammond and David Chan to plan for the publication of clinical cases in a format similar to "Case Records of the Massachusetts General Hospital" published in each issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. It is hoped that this will stimulate interest among clinicians, who enjoy the clinical challenge of tackling the cases on their own.

6. *The electronic/web-based Journal*: Some issues we are planning to discuss and resolve:

a.) *Open vs. closed access*: should we allow free access to issues of the Journal that are, say, more than a year old? Should we allow free access to colleagues who cannot afford to subscribe to the Journal?

b.) Expanding the web-based journal to publish monthly, even though the paper-based version is published every two months. This has merit and would shorten the time to publishing articles as e-pub articles.

c.) Using the web-based version for more colour figures, videos, etc. to enhance its value and to supplement the paper-based version.

7. *Other issues*:

a.) The cover: should be redesigned. For the March issue we have simply changed the colour of the Journal to the CNSF colours. Ideas and suggestions are welcomed.

b.) *Impact factor*: It is hoped that the above initiatives will improve the Journal's impact factor, a measure of the Journal's articles being cited in the literature. This will help encourage more clinical and basic scientists to publish their best works in the Journal, stimulate more reviewer compliance and attract more revenues. This is a win-win scenario and we need to work hard to achieve such improvement.



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Respectfully submitted by
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