

Intellectual Investment in Your Journal: the Next 30 Years!

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I believe The Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences (CJNS) has had another outstanding year generating an attractive collation of innovative and informative articles for the Canadian and international neurosciences community.

As always, my first and foremost thanks is to a talented and dedicated CJNS office that runs the affairs of our journal. These individuals include Myrna Gowing, your ongoing contact to submit papers and review papers. There are challenges in turning papers around and capturing high quality referee comments. Sue Impey designs and produces each issue and her ideas and organization produce a superb and attractive issue each quarter on paper and electronically. Sally Gregg, our managing director, keeps our enterprise viable, thriving and progressive, particularly as we transform to an electronic journal.

We have an outstanding editorial board providing expert appraisal of manuscripts. Rotating off of the board are John Noseworthy from the Mayo Clinic, Shashi Seshia from University of Manitoba, Jon Stoessl from the University of British Columbia and Renn Holness from Dalhousie University. Many thanks to each for their large numbers of excellent reviews. We welcome some new members to the board: Ian Fleetwood from Dalhousie University, Bryan Young from the University of Western Ontario, Oksana Suchowersky from the University of Calgary and Daniel Keene from the University of Ottawa. We also welcome a new Neuroimaging Highlight editor from Toronto, Richard Farb, replacing William Hu from Calgary. Our thanks to William Hu for his superb input.

I am pleased to report that submissions to CJNS are up substantially. Breaking through our "impact factor barrier" remains a challenge, not yet solved to my satisfaction, but solvable. In 2003, we published our first "Canadian Association of Neuroscience Review" by Dr. Yan on auditory development and plasticity. These reviews are not "basic sciences for clinicians" but rigorous undiluted neuroscience pieces to raise the scientific calibre of CJNS and capture the large amount of high quality Canadian neuroscience discovery being published elsewhere. We need more discovery papers – push your basic science colleagues and collaborators to send us high quality rigorous neuroscience papers, particularly reviews of their work.

Bridging the two solitudes of basic neurosciences and clinical neuroscience is one of my goals at CJNS, recognizing their mutual interdependence and stupendous opportunities for cross fertilization. It is the direction of progressive institutions worldwide, given particular emphasis on new blueprint strategic plans of our Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). I have been asked to sit on the Advisory Board of the Institute of Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA), one of

the new virtual institutes of CIHR, headed by Dr. Rémi Quirion from Montreal. The initiatives of INMHA are truly breathtaking. At the institute's annual meeting in Toronto, a dedicated session on spinal cord regeneration started off with poignant and "relevance setting" presentations by Alexandre Poce and Daryl Rock, who have both lived with quadriplegia from spinal cord injury and are articulate spokespersons for the Spinal Cord Research Foundation and the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation respectively. These were followed by work of graduate students and principal investigators (Steve Lacroix, Michael Fehlings, Mohamad Sawan) touching several aspects of the neurobiology of regeneration and clinical aspects of spinal cord injury. Other sessions addressed pain and addictions. The Honorable Michael Wilson, the former Minister of Finance in Ottawa provided a keynote appeal for heightened funding of all aspects of neuroscience research in this country. The work of INMHA and its meeting bring us into a new era of knowledge discovery and translation. I would very much like to see CJNS serve as an outlet for these ideas and initiatives.

This attention does not diminish our ongoing need for a steady influx of topical, readable and highly educational review papers exclusively devoted to clinical topics. I am very appreciative of our authors sending these in, and many are highlighted as of CME interest or as "Progress in Clinical Neurosciences". Please keep them coming.

Another message addresses an opportunity – but we need greater help and input from our constituency – you. Recently, the "Medical Post" highlighted the skyrocketing costs of "for profit" biomedical journals charged to medical libraries. Some single subscriptions to institutions have charged upwards of \$20,000 per year, compared to the paltry \$80 charged by CJNS, a nonprofit journal owned by you. Many clinicians and scientists have also signed on in protest of "for profit" limited online access to these expensive journals. This editor has a unique solution. Support of your own journal, CJNS, with your best work is a way to bypass the "for profit" cycle of publishing where the profit does not come back to us. Time and your intellectual support (your best work) will allow us to provide CJNS as a strong, highly cited, competitor and alternative to "for profit" publishing of our academic output.

Finally, this year marks the 30th anniversary publishing year of CJNS. We have had a great run and will run for some time to come. Look for highlights of our anniversary this year in CJNS and at the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences meeting this year in Calgary. This is your journal.

Douglas Zochodne
Editor-in-Chief

Thank you to our Reviewers

We are indebted to the expert referees who have reviewed submission to the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences in 2003 (names in bold reviewed five or more papers). Their thoughtfulness and expertise has served our journal well.

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* Editorial Board