

Next Steps

As Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences (CJNS), I offer a final commentary to our readers before my official term ends July 2007. I appreciated the flexibility and kind offer of our Publications Committee to continue beyond this second term. It is, however, time for renewal. A new Editor-in-Chief has yet to be declared at the time of this writing, but I can report that excellent candidates are under consideration. The CJNS will pass into good hands.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the superb group I have worked with at CJNS. Thank you to Sally Gregg, our former Managing Director who retired in 2006 after many steadfast years at CJNS; three successive editors have been very grateful for her dedication. Thank you to Sue Impey and Myrna Gowing, members of our former team, for their professionalism. Welcome to the new and talented group who have succeeded this team: Dan Morin is our current CEO. Maggie McCallion, and Cindy Leschyshyn have done an excellent job in keeping our journal running and thriving. It has been a privilege to have worked with all of you. The readers and contributors of CJNS have benefited from the high quality of your work.

Our peer review process is the heart of CJNS activities. For this to have functioned as well as it did during my tenure, I offer heartfelt thanks to our CJNS referees. Acting as a CJNS referee is both a privilege and a responsibility. Our Neurological sciences community, while not large, consistently rises to the challenge, offering detailed, high quality and very helpful insights to contributors. Our policy of seeking three reviews per submission is a rigorous process that places considerable demands on our referees and our office. The rigour, however, has engaged a large pool of talented clinicians, researchers and educators in CJNS activities. This has served us very well. Among this pool, the members of our Editorial Board deserve special credit for reviewing the largest proportion of our manuscripts. Our Associate and Section Editors also deserve special credit. I offer my gratitude to all of these individuals for their unequivocal support over the past 8 years. I encourage all to continue this support for the next Editor-in-Chief and for CJNS. There is only rarely a reason not to complete a review for CJNS when asked! Be engaged..... saving death or catastrophic illness.

I offer a few thoughts about the direction of the CJNS. CJNS is the brainchild of four subspecialty societies of the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences (CCNS), now the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation (CNSF): Neurology, Neurosurgery, Child Neurology and Clinical Neurophysiology. This combination distinguishes CJNS from most other Neuroscience journals. The CJNS routinely mirrors the perspectives of Neurological sciences in Canada, arising from a unique and highly respected health care environment. The core societies of CNSF are not exclusive and have welcomed valuable contributions from Neuropathology and Neuroradiology. These combined perspectives have not only garnered international recognition but have created a forward-reaching journal.

Basic or fundamental Neurosciences is the final community connected to CJNS. This is a connection that needs particular

care and work. When CJNS was founded over 25 years ago, the pages flourished with contributions to fundamental Neurosciences interspersed among clinical papers. Over the last eight years, we have bridged a rapidly widening gulf between clinical and basic Neurosciences with Canadian Association of Neurosciences (CAN) review articles. These cutting edge pieces are a testament to the very quality of ongoing fundamental Neurosciences work in this country. I am confident that they will be widely read and acknowledged. It is also a timely connection to foster: CAN will hold its first annual meeting in Toronto May 23-25, 2007. It will be a new and ambitious venue and will be combined with the annual meeting of the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA) of CIHR. I encourage our readers to attend and contribute to its success. Several of us are lobbying to organize future CNSF, INMHA and CAN meetings in similar cities at similar times to foster a dynamic interchange. Many CNSF members are already members of CAN. We would also encourage involvement by CANN (Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses) and the large group of NGOs that tackle neurological problems. Think of the synergy involved in such a combination. Your lobbying efforts and professional commitment can make this happen. Instruct your CNSF board and executive accordingly.

The CJNS will thrive with your engagement. It must remain an instrument of dialogue among clinical and basic Neurosciences communities in Canada. As our submissions continue to rise, it will be critical to resume plans, on hold over the past two years, to host more issues per year. Submissions have doubled over the past few years and are continuing to rise in the early months of 2007. The CJNS will soon be electronically seamless-from submission to publication- thanks to new work by our office to acquire the appropriate technology.

My final message to our readers is to send your best work to the CJNS. We are the first destination for this work: a rigorously reviewed, widely disseminated and widely respected source of new ideas from Canada on what clinical and fundamental Neurosciences is about.



Douglas Zochodne
Editor-in-Chief