

Message from the Editor

In its twenty third year of publication the Journal extends its appreciation to Dr. Serge Gauthier, Dr. Richard Riopelle and Dr. John Stewart who completed their service on the Editorial Board in 1995. I welcome Dr. Jack P. Antel, Dr. Andrew A. Eisen, Dr. Renn O. Holness and Dr. Douglas W. Zochodne as members of the Board.

Dr. Antel was graduated in medicine from the University of Manitoba and took his neurology residency at the Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, followed by a fellowship in neuro-immunology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. After a faculty appointment at the University of Chicago, for a decade, he took his present position as Neurologist-in-Chief and Professor at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital, and in 1989 became Chairman of the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at McGill University. He brings expertise in immunology to our Board.

Dr. Eisen is a medical graduate of Leeds University who did his training in Neurology at Newcastle upon Tyne and at the Montreal Neurological Institute. He is a Professor of Neurology at the University of British Columbia and Head of the Neuromuscular Unit at the Vancouver Hospital and Health Science Centre, and an authority on many aspects of electrophysiology.

Dr. Holness is Professor and Head of the Division of Neurosurgery at Dalhousie University and Head of Neurosurgery at the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax. He is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, trained in Neurosurgery at Dalhousie and the University of Toronto. His interests encompass general neurosurgery.

Dr. Zochodne was graduated in medicine from the University of Western Ontario where he also took his neurology residency. After a fellowship in peripheral nerve disorders at the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Zochodne was on the Queen's University faculty in Kingston, and he is now an Associate Professor of Neurology in The University of Calgary. He is an expert in experimental and clinical studies of peripheral neuropathies.

The goals of the Journal were reviewed at our last Editorial Board meeting and the following Mission Statement was adopted:

The mission of the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences is to publish original articles in neurology, neurosurgery and related basic neurosciences. The

Journal will be international in its content and audience. It will be directed at publishing articles of high scientific quality. All original manuscripts will undergo peer review. Supplements will be published concerning topics of current importance to neurologists, neurosurgeons and basic scientists. Its editorial policy will be directed at achieving a high rate of citation in the biomedical literature. The Journal will also provide information relevant to the practice of neurology and neurosurgery. Review articles dealing with recent advances will be welcomed.

The issue of conflicts of interest was also addressed at our last Board meeting. We attempt to choose referees who are not involved professionally, socially or financially with the authors of manuscripts that we review; referees, who are so involved with authors, are responsible for declaring their conflict of interest and either declining the review or seeking the decision of the Editor as to whether it is proper to provide the review. Authors who have non-scientific or non-academic gain, whether it be financial or other, in publishing their article are responsible for declaring it to the Editor. Conflicts of interest are not necessarily "wrong", nor do they necessarily deprecate the scientific validity of research or opinion, but the *Journal* and readers should be aware of the conflict. If we consider the conflict to compromise the validity of a paper, we will not accept it for publication. Disclosure of real or perceived conflict is important. Authors, editorial staff and reviewers will be asked to declare any relationships that could be interpreted as conflicts of interest, whether or not they believe that a conflict actually exists. The information we receive about conflict or potential conflict will be kept confidential, but any information that the Editor or Associate Editor thinks is important will be published in the author credits or as a footnote to the paper, with knowledge of the author.

The *Journal* depends on the work of many experts who critically and constructively review articles submitted to the publications office. Their contribution to the peer review process is essential in maintaining the standards explicit in our mission. I gratefully acknowledge our reviewers and list on page 2 the names of referees of papers submitted in 1995.

James A. Sharpe M.D.