



The current issue of the *International Journal of MS Care* continues to offer a broad spectrum of clinically relevant research to those providing care to people with multiple sclerosis (MS). This issue will be distributed not only to the membership of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) but also to individuals attending the Rehabilitation in Multiple Sclerosis (RIMS) meeting in Genoa, Italy, from April 23 to 25. Thus we are pleased to say a warm *Buon giorno, Buenos días, Bonjour, Guten Tag, Goedendag*, and so on to our European colleagues in particular and to publish the RIMS meeting abstracts for the second consecutive year. We look forward to continued partnership with our international colleagues from RIMS as well as elsewhere as we work to improve care for MS patients around the world. We also look forward to receiving manuscripts stemming from the interesting work being done by RIMS members in the months to come.

Also in the current issue is a special tribute to Steven R. Schwid, MD, an extraordinary MS neurologist and clinical trialist at the University of Rochester who died last November. The memorial contains an announcement of two efforts to support and expand Dr. Schwid's tremendous legacy to MS care through the Foundation of the CMSC. In addition, this issue includes the first call for submissions for a theme issue, "Depression in MS," which is slated for publication as the Winter 2009 issue. Randy Schiffer, MD, Director, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, has graciously agreed to serve as Guest Editor of this special issue featuring research and reviews on a very troublesome area that affects all of us caring for MS patients. Manuscripts for this special issue may be submitted at any time before August 15, 2009.

The articles in this issue cover a variety of topics pertaining to MS care. Dr. Fuchs (University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA) provides an excellent summary of the role of the neuropsychologist in the MS care team. At least half of those with MS eventually experience some degree of cognitive dysfunction, and cognitive impairment in MS is associated with loss of employment, reduced driving skills, diminished socialization, and dependence on others for activities of daily living. Therefore, having a team member to address these issues is critical to appropriate MS care.

Dr. Miller (Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH) and colleagues, as well as Dr. Warren (University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) and colleagues address different aspects of health-related quality of life in MS patients. Dr. Miller and colleagues describe a secondary analysis of the Controlled High-Risk Avonex[®] Multiple Sclerosis Prevention Study (CHAMPS) extension dataset in which they compared patient-reported outcomes of patients who did and did not develop clinically definite MS. They found that even individuals with limited disability had diminished quality of life. Dr. Warren and colleagues focused on a sample of community-dwelling MS patients to determine what comorbidities most strongly affected their quality of life.

Dr. Fjeldstad (MS Center of Oklahoma, Mercy NeuroScience Institute, Oklahoma City, OK) and colleagues and Kevin Kelleher (National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland, and University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland) and colleagues address gait dysfunction in MS patients in differing ways. Dr. Fjeldstad and colleagues used both the Berg Balance Scale (BBS) and the NeuroCom SMART Balance Master to assess gait in a sample of MS patients, concluding that the BBS is an effective balance-screening instrument. Mr. Kelleher and colleagues focused on reduced plantar sensation as a factor contributing to the cautious gait pattern often seen in MS patients.

With this issue, as part of our ongoing effort to provide practical, clinically relevant information to a broad range of MS care providers, we launch a new feature appearing with each article: "Practice Points." This list of the article's three or four most applicable conclusions is designed to help readers quickly grasp the most important points regardless of their particular areas of expertise.

Again, we extend warm greetings in many languages to those attending the RIMS meeting in Genoa, and we look forward to meeting and greeting many others at the CMSC meeting in Atlanta from May 27 to 30. As always, we welcome your suggestions and submissions, particularly for our upcoming theme issue on "Depression in MS."

—Lael A. Stone, MD
Editor in Chief