



This issue of the *International Journal of MS Care* (IJMSC) explores depression in multiple sclerosis (MS) patients from various angles. Our open call for manuscripts in the spring of 2009 yielded a set of articles that should prove helpful to all of us involved in the care of MS patients. The Guest Editor of this issue, Dr. Randy Schiffer, Medical Director of the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, has provided an introductory essay on current thinking on depression in MS. Of the five articles, we have two related to diagnosis: one that discusses why the diagnosis is missed and one that addresses risk factors for depression. We also have one article on the assessment of depression in MS and two on management: one pharmacologic and one behavioral.

In the diagnosis category, Dr. Majmudar (now a neurology resident at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX), and her mentor, Dr. Schiffer (then at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, Lubbock), examine the first step in treating depression in MS, which is making the diagnosis in the first place. Their study points toward areas in which we can all do better to recognize depression, while Dr. Marrie (University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada) and colleagues look at risk factors for developing depression in MS. Dr. Marrie and colleagues used another special project of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC), the NARCOMS (North American Research Committee on Multiple Sclerosis), now renamed the Global Patient Registry, to examine whether MS patients with physical comorbidities are more prone to depression than those without such comorbidities. Dr. Crawford (now at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH) and her colleague Noah Webster draw on their work conducted when Dr. Crawford was at the Mellen Center for Multiple Sclerosis Treatment and Research, Cleveland Clinic (Cleveland, OH) to analyze the assessment of depression in the MS population.

With regard to management, Dr. Scott Patten of the University of Calgary (Calgary, Alberta, Canada) provides a very useful review of the literature regarding antidepressant treatment for major depression in MS. Dr. Patten affirms the need for behavioral as well as pharmacologic management, which is discussed in detail by Dr. Stepleman (Medical College of Georgia, Augusta) and

colleagues. This article addresses MS patients' need for psychological services overall, while highlighting the needs of depressed patients in particular.

We have a couple of important announcements. First, we are planning to launch a new electronic manuscript submission and peer review system in January 2010. After evaluating several systems, the IJMSC staff, with the support of June Halper and the CMSC, selected eJournalPress as our partner in this endeavor. We chose this system because of its simplicity and ease of use for authors, reviewers, and the editorial staff, and we hope that you will find it convenient. After January 1, the submission website will be located at <http://ijmsc.msubmit.net> and will also be accessible from the CMSC website at [www.mscares.org](http://www.mscares.org). All authors with Internet access are asked to begin using the system for new submissions in January. After our existing reviewer database is uploaded to the system, we will be contacting all current reviewers and asking them to go to the site and update their personal and specialty information. If you have any questions or comments about the new system, please direct them to Maria Stadler at [IJMSC@mscares.org](mailto:IJMSC@mscares.org).

Second, online abstract submission is now in process for the 2010 Annual Meeting of the CMSC, to be held jointly with the Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS) in San Antonio in June. The abstract submission deadline is January 11. For more information, please visit the CMSC Annual Meeting website at <http://annualmeeting.mscares.org>. We encourage those who will present work at the meeting to submit their full manuscripts to IJMSC for publication consideration.

Last but not least, we would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard on IJMSC this past year: the Editorial Board, the publisher, the CMSC staff, authors, and the nearly 100 reviewers who have reviewed manuscripts over the last 12 months. A list of these reviewers appears elsewhere in this issue. This is truly your journal, and we could not exist without everyone's efforts. Thank you all for making 2009 a successful year, and best wishes for an even more exciting and productive 2010!

—Lael A. Stone, MD  
*Editor in Chief*