

# Neurology celebrates its 50th anniversary

Robert C. Griggs, MD, Editor-in-Chief

The year 2001 marks the 50th anniversary of the first publication of *Neurology*. The journal was published every 2 months beginning in 1951, becoming monthly in 1953. The founding Editor was Russell N. DeJong, succeeded by Lewis P. Rowland and Robert B. Daroff. The early history and evolution of *Neurology* was summarized by Daroff.<sup>1</sup> The growth of *Neurology* has more than matched the expansion of clinical neuroscience. *Neurology* Tables of Contents from 50 and 25 years ago versus last month's tell the story (figure). Twenty-five years ago, *Neurology* received 400 manuscripts. In 1996, when I became Editor, the number approached 2,000. In 2000, we received 3,000 manuscripts.

*Neurology* concludes its first half-century with many new features, and as of last year, twice-monthly publication. International growth has been extraordinary, including many more subscribers and an ever-increasing number of papers from overseas, the assistance of reviewers from over 25 countries, and the addition of international clinical neuroscientists to our Editorial Board. In 2000, we received papers from over 50 countries. New features designed to make *Neurology* more reader-friendly include the one-page issue Highlights, Editorials on two to five articles each issue, and articles discussing Contemporary Issues. We've also added Bob Joynt's "Changes People Comments" and Antonio Culebras' "International Newsletter." The journal has focused on education, with our CME program and *NeuroImages*—eye-catching figures with a teaching message.

**The next 50 years: *Neurology* online.** The future of medical journalism is the e-journal. This issue introduces many online features facilitated by *Neurology's* move to HighWire Press:

**Rapid publication and dissemination of articles.** Each issue is online at 4 PM on the day before the cover date. This bypasses mail delays for our international readership. Moreover, high-profile expedited articles can be published 8 to 10 weeks from receipt. (See Information for Authors at [www.neurology.org](http://www.neurology.org)) Soon, we will be prepared to publish articles important for patient care within 2 weeks of submission.

**Post-publication peer review.** We will post correspondence about just-published papers within 48 to

72 hours of their receipt. Author responses to correspondence will be published equally promptly. Letters will be reviewed for subsequent publication in the print journal.

**Reader-directed journal.** Search words are assigned to each article. These subject categories will allow readers to receive e-mail alerts for articles in their subspecialty and focused topic interests. (See [www.neurology.org](http://www.neurology.org))

**Improved CME.** Readers using our online CME can soon receive instant feedback on the answers to questions and be directed to the important information and main teaching points in each CME article.

**Shorter, more focused articles.** Authors are now asked to provide readers with a smaller number of succinct tables and figures. Extensive data essential to researchers in the field are archived online. Over time, as usage of the online journal increases, these supplemental materials—methods, tables, figures, references—could be made accessible from the text at appropriate locations and would not have to appear in print. The ultimate goal is to reverse the tendency to ever-lengthening issues of *Neurology*. Shorter, better-written articles that present new clinical information succinctly are our goal.

## Changes in the *Neurology* Editorial Board.

Editorial Board members are chosen for their expertise and reputation as leaders of clinical neuroscience. They have also been dedicated, high-volume, reliable reviewers for *Neurology*. We are pleased to welcome the following new members: Thomas Bird, Seattle, WA; Kimford Meador, Augusta, GA; Karen Roos, Indianapolis, IN; Kathleen Shannon, Chicago, IL; and Nicholas Wood, London, UK.

The following retiring Editorial Board Members have given outstanding service and provided leadership to *Neurology*: Sudhansu Chokroverty, Joseph Jankovic, Howard Kirshner, James Prichard, and Thomas Sutula. The Editors, readership, and all of clinical neuroscience owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

## References

1. Daroff R. The journal *Neurology*. In: Cohen M, ed. *The American Academy of Neurology: the first 50 years*. 1998:49-60.

**President's Message**  
A. B. BAKER, M.D. .... 7

**The Past, Present and Future of Neurology in the United States**  
PEARCE BAILEY, M.D. .... 1

**Cerebellopalidial Anisosthenia**  
ROBERT BING, M.D. .... 10

**Pendulousness of the Legs as a Diagnostic Test**  
ROBERT WARTEMBERG, M.D. .... 18

**The Electroencephalogram in Intracranial Aneurysms**  
E. ROSEMAN, M.D., B. M. BLOOR, M.D., AND RICHARD P. SCHMIDT, M.D. .... 25

**Spinal Cord Tumors with Minimal Neurologic Findings**  
FREDERICK P. MOERSCH, M.D., WINCHELL M.C.K. CRAIG, M.D., AND LEE A. CHRISTOFFERSON, M.D. .... 39

**Role of Birth Injury and Asphyxia in Idiopathic Epilepsy**  
J. M. NIELSEN, M.D., AND CYRIL B. COURVILLE, M.D. .... 48

**Polycythemia Vera and the Nervous System**  
DAVID R. JOHNSON, M.D., AND WILLIAM S. CHALGREN, M.D. .... 53

**Newer Drugs in the Treatment of Parkinsonism**  
LEWIS J. DOSHAY, M.D., AND KATE CONSTABLE, M.D. .... 68

**Treatment Review**  
**Practical Considerations in the Treatment of Head Injuries**  
A. EARL WALKER, M.D. .... 75

**Clinical Pathologic Conference**  
DISCUSSION BY D. E. DENNY-BROWN, M.D. .... 85

**Editorial**  
RUSSELL N. DE JONG, M.D. .... 94

**Book Reviews** .... 95

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**Contents**

501 Computerized axial transverse tomography in normal pressure hydrocephalus  
Lawrence Jacobs, M.D., and William Kinkel, M.D.

508 Studies with bromocriptine Part 1. "On-off" phenomena  
Ronald Karttinen, M.D., Ph.D., and Donald B. Calne, M.D.

511 Studies with bromocriptine Part 2. Double-blind comparison with levodopa in idiopathic parkinsonism  
Ronald Karttinen, M.D., Ph.D., Ira Shoulson, M.D., and Donald B. Calne, M.D.

514 Dapsone motor neuropathy — An axonal disease  
Ludwig Gutman, M.D., James D. Martin, M.D., and William Walton, M.D.

517 Radioisotope scanning in inflammatory muscle disease  
Mark Brown, M.D., Thomas R. Switt, M.D., and Stewart M. Spies, M.D.

521 The orbicularis oculi reflex in infancy and childhood: Establishment of normal values  
Susan A. Clay, M.D., and J. Carroll Ramseyer, M.D.

525 Relationships between intelligence and electroencephalographic epileptiform activity in adult epileptics  
Carl B. Dodrill, Ph.D., and Robert J. Wilkus, M.D.

532 "Ping-Pong" gaze: Periodic alternating gaze deviation  
Richard C. Senelick, M.D.

536 The pharmacokinetics of pyridostigmine  
Stanley L. Cohan, M.D., Ph.D., Juergen L. W. Pohlmann, Ph.D., Jerold Mikszewski, M.D., and Desmond S. O'Doherty, M.D.

540 Radiation-induced cerebrovascular disease in children  
Thomas L. Wright, M.D., and Michael J. Bresnan, M.D.

544 Multiple sclerosis and myasthenia gravis: A case report with single fiber electromyography  
Amrit N. Achari, M.D., M.R.C.P. (U.K.), Joze V. Trentelj, M.D., D.Sc., and Robert J. Campos, M.D.

547 Brain stem dysfunction related to cervical manipulation: Report of three cases  
S. Mueller, M.D., M.S., and A. L. Saks, M.D.

551 Syringomyelia associated with postmeningitic spinal arachnoiditis: Filling of the syrinx through a communication with the subarachnoid space  
Mario Savoiardo, M.D.

555 Correlation between computerized transaxial tomography and radionuclide cisternography in dementia  
M. H. Gado, M.D., R. E. Coleman, M.D., K. S. Lee, M.D., M. A. Mikhail, M.D., P. O. Alderson, M.D., and C. R. Archer, M.D.

561 Significance of creatine phosphokinase isoenzymes in Duchenne dystrophy  
L. M. Silverman, Ph.D., J. R. Mendell, M.D., Z. Sahenk, M.D., and M. B. Fontana, M.D.

565 Chronic polyradiculoneuropathy of infancy: A report of three cases with familial incidence  
Michael Kasman, M.D., Lawrence Barnstein, M.D., and Sidney Schulman, M.D.

574 Effect of corticosteroids on the phrenic nerve-diaphragm preparation treated with hemicholinium: A possible model of myasthenia gravis  
E. Ch. M. J. Wolters, Ph.D., and R. S. Leeuw, Ph.D.

579 Cerebrospinal fluid T and B lymphocyte kinetics related to exacerbations of multiple sclerosis  
Jeffrey C. Allen, M.D., William Shermata, M.D., J. B. R. Cosgrove, M.D., Kirk Osterland, M.D., and Mary Shea, B.Sc.

584 Acute encephalopathy caused by defective virus infection: Studies of Newcastle disease virus infections in newborn and adult mice  
Jack S. Burks, M.D., Opendra Narayan, D.V.M., Ph.D., Henry F. McFarland, M.D., and Richard T. Johnson, M.D.

589 Myasthenic abduction nystagmus in a patient with hyperthyroidism  
Pasquale F. Finelli, M.D., and William F. Hoyt, M.D.

591 False positive serology in cerebrospinal fluid associated with a spinal cord tumor  
Peyton Delaney, M.D.

594 Sustained downgaze deviation: Two cases without structural pretectal lesions  
James R. Keane, M.D., Donald G. Rawlinson, M.D., and Abraham T. Lu, M.D.

596 Horner simplex neuropathy  
Gregory B. Krohn, M.D., John R. Richardson, M.D., and Donald F. Farrell, M.D.

598 Letters to the editor

600 Book reviews

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Volume 55/Number 12  
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**In This Issue**

1765 December 26 Highlights

**Acknowledgment to Reviewers**

1766 Message from the Editors to our ad hoc Reviewers  
R.C. Griggs, K.D. Kieburz, C.J. Duffy, and M.P. McDermott

**Editorials**

1770 Selaginella and Parkinson's disease: It's déjà vu again  
J.W. Langston and C.M. Tanner

1771 Spontaneous intracranial hypertension: The broadening clinical and imaging spectrum of CSF leaks  
B. Mokri and J.B. Posner

**Contemporary Issues**

1773 Clinical neurophysiology training and certification in the United States: 2000: American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Neurology Residency Review Committee  
R. Burns, J. Daube, and H.R. Jones, Jr.

**In Memoriam**

1779 Lee Averbuch-Heller, MD (1958-2000)  
R.J. Leigh and R.B. Daroff

**Views & Reviews**

1780 When drugs don't work: An algorithmic approach to medically intractable epilepsy  
S.R. Benbadis, W.O. Tatum, and F.L. Vale

**Articles**

1785 Selaginella and mortality in subjects with PD: A longitudinal community study  
P.T. Dorman, D.T. Steirke, C. Stubbings, P.G. Davey, and T.M. MacDonald

1789 Impaired EMG inhibition elicited by tendon stimulation in dystonia  
C. Lorenzano, A. Priori, A. Curra, F. Gilio, M. Manfredi, and A. Berardelli

1794 Phenotype of AD-HSP due to mutations in the SPAST gene: Comparison with AD-HSP without mutations  
P. McMonagle, P.C. Byrne, B. Fitzgerald, S. Webb, N.A. Parfrey, and M. Hutchinson

1801 Can emergency department physicians safely and effectively initiate thrombolysis for acute ischemic strokes?  
P.T. Atkins, C. Delemos, D. Wentworth, J. Byer, S.J. Schorer, and R.P. Atkinson

1806 Recurrent ischemia in symptomatic carotid occlusion: Prognostic value of hemodynamic factors  
C.J.M. Klijn, L.J. Kappelle, A.C. van Hulten, G.H. Visser, A. Algra, C.A.F. Tulleken, and J. van Gijn

1812 Increased secondary generalization of partial seizures after temporal lobectomy  
T.R. Henry, I. Drury, L.A. Schuh, and D.A. Ross

1818 Visual field deficits in conventional anterior temporal lobectomy versus amygdalohippocampectomy  
R.A. Egan, W.T. Shults, N. So, K. Burchiel, J.X. Kellogg, and M. Salinsky

1823 Limbic encephalitis not associated with neoplasm as a cause of temporal lobe epilepsy  
C.G. Bien, A. Schulze-Bonhage, M. Deckert, H. Urbach, C. Helmstaedter, T. Grunwald, C. Schaller, and C.E. Elger

1828 Cystatin C and cathepsin B in CSF from patients with inflammatory neurologic diseases  
A. Nagai, Y. Murakawa, M. Terashima, K. Shimode, N. Umegae, H. Takeuchi, and S. Kobayashi

1833 Eye movements in patients with supranuclear dehiscence syndrome align with the abnormal canal  
P.D. Cremer, L.B. Minor, J.P. Carey, and C.G. Della Santina

1841 Ross syndrome plus: Beyond Horner, Holmes-Adie, and harlequin  
R.K. Shin, S.L. Galetta, T.Y. Ting, K. Armstrong, and S.J. Bird

1847 Cognitive tests that best discriminate between presymptomatic AD and those who remain nondemented  
P. Chen, G. Ratcliff, S.H. Belle, J.A. Cauley, S.T. Dekosky, and M. Ganguli

1854 Research evaluation and diagnosis of possible Alzheimer's disease over the last two decades: I  
O.L. Lopez, J.T. Becker, W. Klunk, J. Saxton, R.L. Hamilton, D.J. Kaufer, R.A. Sweet, C. Cidis Meltzer, S. Wisniewski, et al.

1863 Research evaluation and diagnosis of possible Alzheimer's disease over the last two decades: II  
O.L. Lopez, J.T. Becker, W. Klunk, J. Saxton, R.L. Hamilton, D.J. Kaufer, R.A. Sweet, C. Cidis Meltzer, S. Wisniewski, et al.

1869 Spatial discrimination is abnormal in focal hand dystonia  
W. Bara-Jimenez, P. Shelton, and M. Hallett

1874 N-Acetylaspartate and creatine levels measured by <sup>1</sup>H MRS relate to recognition memory  
M. Koutoumanidis, R.G. Morris, A. Simmons, R.D.C. Elwes, T. Cox, C.D. Binnie, and C.E. Polkey

1883 Neural correlates of recovery from aphasia after damage to left inferior frontal cortex  
H.J. Rosen, S.E. Petersen, M.R. Linenweber, A.Z. Snyder, D.A. White, L. Chapman, A.W. Drornerick, J.A. Fiez, and M. Corbetta

**Brief Communications**

1895 Pituitary enlargement in patients with intracranial hypertension syndrome  
J. Alvarez-Linera, J. Escobedo, J. Benito-León, J. Porta-Etessam, and A. Rovira

1897 HLA class II genotypes in Mexican Mestizos with familial and nonfamilial multiple sclerosis  
C. Alvarado-de la Barrera, J. Zuñiga-Ramos, J.A. Ruiz-Morales, B. Estafán, J. Granados, and L. Llorente

1901 Are quantitative functional measures more sensitive to worsening MS than traditional measures?  
S.F. Barbeau, A.D. Goodman, B.R. Apantaku, P.K. Coyle, L.D. Jacobs, L.B. Krupp, A.E. Miller, K.E. Wende, C.M. Brownschield, et al.

1904 Induction of psychogenic nonepileptic seizures without placebo  
S.F. Barbeau, K. Johnson, K. Anthony, G. Cairnes, G. Hess, C. Jackson, F.L. Vale, and W.O. Tatum IV

1906 Epileptic vertigo: Evidence for vestibular representation in human frontal cortex  
M. Kluge, S. Beyenburg, G. Fernandez, and C.E. Elger

1908 Successful treatment of hypothalamic seizures and precocious puberty with GnRH analogue  
M. Zaatreh, M. Tension, and R.S. Greenwood

1910 Cytomegalovirus ventriculoencephalitis presenting as a Wernicke's encephalopathy-like syndrome  
J. Torgovnick, E.L. Arsura, and D. Lala

1913 Adeno-associated virus in normal and myositis human skeletal muscle  
S.F. Barbeau, K. Nagaraju, P. Plotz, and E.P. Hoffman

1918 Multiple system atrophy/progressive supranuclear palsy: α-Synuclein, synphilin, tau, and APOE  
H.R. Morris, J.R. Vaughan, S.R. Datta, R. Bandopadhyay, H.A. Rohan de Silva, A. Schrag, N.J. Cairns, O. Burn, U. Nath, P.L. Lantos, et al.

1921 Effect of subthalamic nucleus stimulation on levodopa-induced dyskinesia in Parkinson's disease  
V. Fraix, P. Pollak, N. Van Blercom, J. Xie, P. Krack, A. Koudsie, and A.L. Benabid

1923 Hypotensive alkalosis: Autonomic failure associated with leg fogging while sitting  
W.P. Cheslira, Jr.

1926 L-dopa-responsive infantile hypokinetic rigid parkinsonism due to tyrosine hydroxylase deficiency  
J.F. de Rijk-van Andel, F.J.M. Gabréëls, B. Geurtz, G.C.H. Steenberg-Spaargaren, L.P.W.J. van den Heuvel, J.A.M. Smetink, et al.

1929 Carotid-cavernous fistula with brainstem congestion mimicking tumor on MRI  
S. Shintani, S. Tsuruko, and T. Shiga

1931 Identical dystylerin mutation in limb-girdle muscular dystrophy type 2B and distal myopathy  
S.N. Ilaroshkin, I.A. Ivanova-Smolenskaya, C.R. Greenberg, E. Nylen, V.S. Sukhorov, V.V. Poleschuk, E.D. Markova, and K. Wrogemann

**Clinical/Scientific Notes**

1934 Efficiency of carbamazepine in the treatment of icturitional disturbances in Huntington disease  
Y. Cochen, J.-D. Degos, and A.-C. Bachourol-Lévy

1936 Transient unilateral mydriasis as the presenting sign of aortic and carotid dissection  
R. Inzeberg, P. Nispeanu, S.C. Blumen, I. Kovach, G.M. Groisman, and R.L. Carasso

1935 Pop music and frontotemporal dementia  
C. Geroldi, T. Maltiner, G. Binetti, O. Zanetti, M. Trabucchi, and G.B. Frisoni

1936 Valproic acid toxicity mimicking multiple system atrophy  
H.A. Shill and T.D. Fife

1937 Voluntary nystagmus as a component of a nonepileptic seizure  
B.J. Davis

1937 Successful prophylaxis of recurrent transient global amnesia with metoprolol  
P. Berlit

**Correspondence**

1939 Two brothers with frontotemporal dementia and parkinsonism with an N279K mutation of the tau gene  
To the Editor: Z.K. Waszolek, Y. Tsuboi, R.J. Uliti, and L. Reed. Reply from the Authors: K. Arima and N. Sunohara

1939 Pseudotumor palsy from a small infarct of the precentral knob  
To the Editor: M. Seth Hochman, S.J. DePrima, and B.J. Leon. Reply from the Authors: T.G. Phan, B.A. Evans, and J. Huston

1941 Reversed clock phenomenon: a right-hemisphere syndrome  
To the Editor: D.S. Jones. Reply from the Authors: E. Kurnal and D. Eypayan

1941 Better outcome after stroke with higher serum cholesterol levels  
To the Editor: I. Steiner, I. Biran, B.E. Akpanonu, A.B. Mutji, and S.A. Khuder. Reply from the Authors: J. Boguslavsky

**Correction**  
1942 To: HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (statins): A promising approach to stroke prevention

**Departments**

Figure. Evolution of Neurology Tables of Contents from (A) 1951, (B) 1976, and (C) 2000.

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Robert C. Griggs

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