

New features in *Neurology*

Kathleen M. Pieper, Editorial Associate; and Robert C. Griggs, MD, Editor-in-Chief

With this issue of *Neurology*, we are introducing more of many new features that are made possible by the rapid growth and acceptance of online publishing of the journal. Almost half of our readership is now using the online journal. Moreover, the public—ever more sophisticated in their ability to access information—are visiting our site with greater frequency.

July 2002 initiatives

Patient Page. Accompanying this issue, *Neurology* launches an online Patient Page.^{1,2} The Patient Page editor is Robin L. Brey, MD, and the co-editor is Janet Jankowiak, MD. Dr. Brey is Chair of the Public and Professional Information Committee of the American Academy of Neurology. The Patient Page will be written by neurologists, neurologic nurses, and other healthcare professionals on important neurologic topics accompanying current articles published in *Neurology*. It will provide a lay-friendly explanation of the diagnosis, management, and treatment of neurologic illnesses. Dr. Brey's editorial about the Patient Page appears in this issue.¹

NeuroImages. Due to the high level of interest and the ever-increasing number of excellent *NeuroImages* we receive, we have decided to expand the number and place many of them solely in the online journal. This will provide readers with more exposure to this interesting section and will also enable us to accept more of these concise and instructive illustrations.

Video illustrations. Several papers published earlier this year included an online video. As technology improves and readers gain familiarity with computer capability, it makes sense to have accompanying online color videos illustrate seizure activity, movement disorders, historical imagery and other topics. Authors should include short video clips (see Information for Authors) with all papers for which such illustrations would be more informative than static figures. The Table of Contents of the print issue of *Neurology* will include a video icon to alert readers.

Issue highlights. This issue includes the first *Commentary* about a highlighted article. This editorial commentary will be added to selected "In this Issue" articles—*Neurology's* highlight section—and will give perspective by an expert in the field.

Online peer review system. After a three-month investigation that included demonstrations and cost analysis of available online peer review systems, we decided on HighWire Press's innovative system, Bench>Press. Most major journals have already moved in the direction of online manuscript handling.

There will be explicit and comprehensive instructions on our Web site for authors and reviewers of *Neurology* when this system launches (July/August 2002).

January 1, 2003 initiatives

Electronic long, paper short (ELPS). The *British Medical Journal* (www.bmj.com) publishes an abridged version of some articles in the print version and posts the full version online. This began as an experiment for *BMJ* in 1999.³ *Neurology* plans to do this for one or two articles beginning with the first January issue. ELPS will ultimately provide print readers a less bulky journal and articles that are more concise. Details of citation and portions that will move online are steadily being investigated. As *Neurology* moves into the future, it is clear that its online journal will become the canonical version for citation because online articles comprise the print material as well as all the supplementary data—representing the complete article.

Over the next six months, *Neurology* expects to add other features including publish ahead of print and improved e-alerts.

Publish ahead of print (P>P). This initiative is currently being used with success in other leading journals. Selected, high-priority articles will be edited and posted within one week of acceptance on www.neurology.org. The article will subsequently appear in the print version. The advantages are that time delays involved with print format are omitted and the information is disseminated more rapidly.

Improved e-alerts. E-mail alerting for upcoming Tables of Contents has been a very successful online feature. Information on how to sign up for these alerts appears on our Web site. We plan to add new alerts including "In This Issue" highlights and AAN press releases. A mechanism that will also be in place by 2003 will be a subspecialty article alert. Those registering will be presented with a menu of subspecialties to choose from. If an article in any of their interest areas is published, an e-mail with a hyperlink to the article will be generated to the reader.

We welcome your suggestions and comments about any of our planned initiatives: neuro_journal@urmc.rochester.edu.

References

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2. Leonard AD, Brey R. Patient Page—Blood pressure control and stroke: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. *Neurology* 2002;59:E1–E2.
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