



From the Editor

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The Global Burden of Disease Study and neurology: Transitions in perspective

If you were interested in global neurology prior to 1994, you may have felt alone. The metric for assessing the burden of a disease or health condition was essentially a body count. This primitive approach failed to capture the burden of diseases that devastate without necessarily causing rapid death, such as severe cerebral palsy, untreated primary progressive multiple sclerosis, dementia, and treatment-resistant epilepsy. The development of the disability-adjusted life-year and efforts to quantify this through the Global Burden of Disease Study were transformative for global neurology.^{1,2} Neuropsychiatric disorders rose out of oblivion to become recognized as one of the top causes of global burden.³ Let us call this “Transition in Perspective: Phase 1.”

In a recent Without Borders blog, we examine the first 3 phases of this transition of perspective.

References

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3. Murray CJ, Lopez AD. Global mortality, disability, and the contribution of risk factors: Global Burden of Disease Study. *Lancet* 1997;349:1436–1442.



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