



## In Focus

### Spotlight on the March 1 Issue

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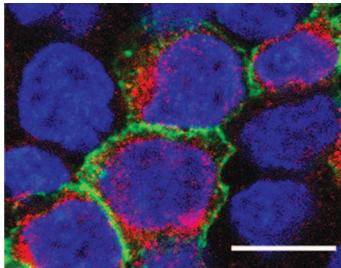
#### Mitochondrial DNA haplogroups and mutations in children with acquired central demyelination 🐉

#### HLA-DRB1 confers increased risk of pediatric-onset MS in children with acquired demyelination 🐉

These 2 papers investigated acquired demyelination in children. The first analyzed mitochondrial genetic variants in 213 children with acquired demyelination syndrome. Mitochondrial variants may influence the risk of ADS and multiple sclerosis in children. The second examined HLA-DRB1 alleles using an allele-specific PCR amplification method from 266 children presenting with ADS and 196 healthy controls. HLA-DRB1501 conferred genetic risk for pediatric MS, but not pediatric ADS.

See pp. 774 and 781; Editorial, p. 768

#### GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor antibodies in limbic encephalitis and anti-GAD-associated neurologic disorders



The authors analyzed the frequency of GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor antibodies (GABA<sub>B</sub>R-ab) in 147 patients with limbic encephalitis (LE) or neurologic syndromes associated with GAD-ab. GABA<sub>B</sub>R-ab were the most common antibodies found in

LE associated with small-cell lung cancer previously considered "seronegative." In patients with GAD-ab, increased GABA<sub>B</sub>R-ab was observed only in the context of cancer.

See p. 795

#### Motor vehicle accidents, suicides, and assaults in epilepsy: A population-based study 🐉

The psychosocial outcomes of epilepsy may affect patients' lives as do their seizures. In this study, those with epilepsy were more likely to be assaulted compared to the general population, but not more likely to attempt suicide or be involved in motor vehicle accidents after adjusting for comorbidities.

See p. 801

From editorialists Joseph F. Dratzkowski and Joseph I. Sirven: "We applaud Kwon and colleagues' analysis of this unique population database in Alberta, Canada, for it may help to change the proverbial plight of the patient with epilepsy by illuminating the many serious hazards of the condition."

See p. 770

#### Recognizing Guillain-Barré syndrome in preschool children

This retrospective study of 55 preschool children with Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) found that the clinical diagnosis was delayed compared to older children, because the symptoms were nonspecific. GBS should be considered in preschool children with nonspecific complaints of subacute pain in the legs and difficulty walking.

See p. 807

#### Retinal vascular caliber and risk of dementia: The Rotterdam Study 🐉

In the prospective population-based Rotterdam Study, larger venular calibers were associated with an increased risk of dementia, in particular vascular dementia. This association may suggest the presence of cerebral hypoperfusion and subsequent ischemia.

See p. 816

#### Progressive regional atrophy in normal adults with a maternal history of Alzheimer disease

The authors evaluated regional brain atrophy in healthy elderly with and without a family history of Alzheimer disease (AD). They found that maternal family history of AD was associated with progressive atrophy in the precuneus and medial temporal cortex, AD-vulnerable brain regions that may represent a prodromal imaging AD phenotype.

See p. 822

#### VIEWS & REVIEWS

##### Brain death and the courts 📺

Brain death determinations have been challenged in courts; legal challenges largely pertained to the consequences of untimely diagnosis and to family-physician discord. However, nothing in the court cases reviewed suggests a need to change the current medical standard of brain death determination.

See p. 837

*NB: Neurology Clinical Pathological Conference titled "A 49-year-old woman with progressive shortness of breath," see p. 830. To check out other publications under this subsection, point your browser to <http://www.neurology.org>. As the journal continues to celebrate 60 years of publishing, check out the special editorial published in this issue by one of our previous editors.*

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