Degenerative Neurological and Neuromuscular Disease

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EDITORIAL

Editorial

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The proposition to start a new journal is always a difficult one. However, the recent trend of open access journals has allowed publishers to expand the number of journals available to all scientists worldwide. The Directory of Open Access Journals[1] lists 522 medical journals and 94 neurological journals, but only one with a focus on neurodegeneration. This new journal, *Degenerative Neurological and Neuromuscular Disease*, published by Dove Medical Press, will hopefully be able to fill that void. The idea for this journal was inspired by the aging population and the frequent occurrence of neurodegenerative diseases in this large group of patients. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs,[2] in 1950 at the global level, 1 in 12 individuals was at least 60 years old and 1 in 20 was at least 65. By 2050 those numbers are projected to be 1 in 5 over 60 years old and 1 in 6 over 65. A recent PubMed search supports the idea that neurodegenerative diseases are quite common, with almost 600 articles published in 2010 under the search terms degenerative neurological disease or degenerative neuromuscular disease, a 25% increase from the number published 10 years earlier.

One example of an area of intense research is highlighted by a recent review article that examines the many seemingly diverse neurodegenerative diseases that are all characterized by the presence of intra- or extra-neuronal inclusions.[3] Some of these many diseases include Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and a number of less common diseases such as spinocerebellar ataxias and spinobulbar muscular atrophy. The presence of these abnormal inclusions has led several authors to suggest that many neurodegenerative diseases are the result of abnormal handling of misfolded proteins due to mutations in genes involved in protein clearance and components of the ubiquitin–proteasome pathway, autophagosome–lysosome pathway, or the chaperone-mediated autophagy system.

To allow the wider dissemination of this type of exiting research Dove Press has assembled a group of editors for *Degenerative Neurological and Neuromuscular Disease* who are leaders in their fields to ensure thorough review and to provide commentary that will enhance original manuscripts. Other benefits of Dove Medical Press open access journals include a quick turnaround time from submission to the decision on acceptance, usually in less than 4 weeks and the promise to not reject an otherwise suitable manuscript due to lack of space, a common problem in more established journals. One primary goal of Dove Medical Press is to have the journal indexed on PubMed as soon as criteria have been reached, as has occurred with all their older journals.

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Manuscripts should generally be original research papers, but good quality reviews, expert opinions, short reports, and letters to the editor will all be accepted after review. The focus will be on new research, identification of therapeutic targets, and the optimal use of treatment interventions to achieve improved outcomes and enhanced survival and quality of life for the patient with neurodegenerative disease. I wish to thank Dove Medical Press and our editorial board for their help in initiating what I hope will be a provocative new journal and welcome any questions or comments about publications in *Degenerative Neurological and Neuromuscular Disease*.

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