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.¹ 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) 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)

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.

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

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