In Focus

Spotlight on the January 11 Issue

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Second brain death examination may negatively affect organ donation

Brain death determination requires a comprehensive evaluation, but little is known about the need for a second evaluation. This study across 100 hospitals involving 1,311 brain death determinations found no change in neurologic examination. The long delay to obtain a second examination resulted in a substantial loss of organ donors.

See p. 119; Editorial, p. 113

Effectiveness of a modified *Continuum* curriculum for medical students: A randomized trial

This trial assessed the effectiveness of a modified *Continuum* dementia module. Students completing the curriculum demonstrated greater increases in medical knowledge of dementia. Measuring the effectiveness of an educational tool to improve training suggests that such measurements may be a surrogate marker for optimizing patient care.

See p. 125

From editorialists Ronald M. Kanner and Megan Alcauskas: "Education is a 'seed and soil' enterprise; the fact that something is taught does not guarantee that it is learned or retained over the long term."

See p. 115

Increased temporolimbic cortical folding complexity in temporal lobe epilepsy

The authors quantified folding complexity in 43 patients with temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE) compared to 40 healthy controls. The anatomic distribution of increased cortical complexity overlapping with limbic

seizure networks in TLE and its association with hippocampal maldevelopment further implies that neurodevelopmental factors may play a role in the epileptogenic process of TLE.

See p. 138; Editorial, p. 117

Racial and geographic differences in fish consumption: The REGARDS Study

This REGARDS Study recruited 30,239 participants aged ≥ 45 years from the southeastern Stroke Belt and Buckle with oversampling of African Americans. Dietary data for this cross-sectional analysis found that only 5,022 participants consumed ≥ 2 servings per week of nonfried fish. Differential consumption of fish may contribute to the racial and geographic disparities in stroke.

See p. 154

Three-month stroke outcome: The European Registers of Stroke (EROS) Investigators

This multinational European population-based study provides comparative data on regional variations in mortality and morbidity after first stroke. More than 40% of patients had died, were dependent, or were newly institutionalized 3 months after stroke; however, regional variations in poor outcome were explained to a great extent by variations in case mix.

See p. 159

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Rethinking the thinking cap: Ethics of neural enhancement using noninvasive brain stimulation

This review examined 3 areas in which noninvasive brain stimulation has the potential to enhance neurologic function, outlining the ethical problems in cosmetic neurology and discussing how these problems may apply to the use of noninvasive brain stimulation for self-enhancement.

See p. 187

NB: The Green Journal celebrates an important anniversary in 2011—it is 60 years old. See Resident & Fellow "International Issues: The EAYNT: Ten years of unifying European junior neurologists" on p. e4 and "Reflections for January: Haitian on the Comfort: Doctor and Patient" on p. 198. To check out other Resident & Fellow submissions and Reflections: Neurology and the Humanities, point your browser to <http://www.neurology.org>.

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