Expediting manuscripts and other changes in *Neurology*

Robert C. Griggs, MD

*Neurology* has a new publisher, Lippincott-Raven Publishers (LRP). After many years with Advanstar Communications, *Neurology* began publication with Little, Brown and Company in January 1996. However, even before the process of shifting publishers was fully accomplished, the medical division of Little, Brown and Company was sold to LRP. Fortunately for *Neurology*, LRP was able to recruit Nancy Megley, Associate Publisher at Little, Brown and Company in Boston, to coordinate the transition. She assumes an expanded role as Publisher of *Neurology* with LRP in Philadelphia. The management team at LRP, in particular President Joseph Lippincott III, Senior Vice President Kathey Alexander, Senior Acquisitions Editor Mark Placito, Executive Publisher Marcia Serepy, and Senior Managing Editor Karyn Crislip, has been extremely responsive and helpful to the needs of *Neurology*.

**Electronic publishing.** The move to LRP has proved timely for *Neurology* because of LRP’s experience with electronic publishing. *Neurology* now requests that authors submit a diskette to the editorial office for the final, revised, and accepted version of each manuscript. All subsequent editing will now be done on line.

A number of major journals are now fully on line. Most such journals are supported by both membership dues and a large subscriber base. Journals such as *Neurology* that derive a substantial portion of their support from advertising revenues cannot currently be brought fully on line without threatening those revenues. New approaches to generating commercial support will in all likelihood develop, making it possible to publish our journal on line.

*Neurology* on the World Wide Web. The *Neurology* table of contents is currently on the American Academy of Neurology’s web site. Plans are being developed to have abstracts, the Newsletter, and the text of expedited manuscripts on the web site as well. The web site (www.aan.com) has both public and private access. For access to the private site, Academy members need a user name and password, which can be obtained by registering (free of charge) through the AAN web site.

**Expediting manuscripts.** *Neurology* intends to continue to attract the very best research articles in clinical neuroscience, particularly those related to the practice of neurology. *Neurology’s* editorial board has agreed to review manuscripts with a maximum 10-day turnaround. Ad hoc reviewers will be asked to do the same. Manuscript reviews and correspondence will be handled by fax. As of December 1996, the average publication delay (time from acceptance to publication for articles and brief communications) was 30 weeks. We have set a target for all manuscripts to be published within 24 weeks of acceptance.

Authors may now request that manuscripts be expedited, but the decision to expedite manuscripts rests with the reviewers and the editor. Lengthy articles will not be expedited. Each issue has a fixed number of pages so that if one manuscript is expedited, all other manuscripts suffer delays. Manuscripts to be expedited should therefore be as concise as possible. By July 1997 *Neurology* will require a standard format for expedited papers with specific instructions for content and length. We are exploring the possibility that supplemental materials (providing additional data and details of methods) for such expedited papers could be available on the World Wide Web.

**Contemporary Issues section.** *Neurology* has been the vehicle for the presentation and discussion about much that is exciting in clinical neurology. This new section of the journal will expand this role and present hot topics in neuroscience, neurologic practice, education, and other appropriate areas of neurology. In this issue, Leon Epstein and Paul Brown (pp 569–571) discuss “Bovine spongiform encephalopathy and a new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease,” providing an important perspective on this internationally dominant medical and economic issue. Contemporary issues to be considered in the future include neurology residency training, conflict-of-interest concerns, clinical trials, and perspectives on neuroscience research.

**Book and software reviews.** *Neurology* is now interested in receiving software and other materials appropriate for the clinical neuroscientist and for the practicing neurologist. Software and books for review...
should be sent to the Neurology Editorial Office. Associate Editor Karl Kieburtz will arrange for book reviews, and Todd Troost will arrange for software reviews. During the past year a number of book reviews were delayed in publication. The backlog is nearly corrected, and we plan their timely publication in future issues.

**New editorial board members.** The following list of distinguished clinical neuroscientists have been appointed to the editorial board of Neurology. All have been excellent reviewers and bring substantive, diverse expertise to the journal: James Barkovich, MD, University of California, San Francisco; Joseph Berger, MD, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington; Anne Cross, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis; Lisa DeAngelis, MD, Memorial Hospital, New York; Thomas Feasby, MD, Foothills Hospital, University of Calgary, Canada; Philip Gorelick, MD, Rush-Presbyterian-St. Lukes, Chicago; Joseph Jankovic, MD, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston; George Karpati, MD, Montreal Neurological Institute, Canada; John Leigh, MD, Cleveland VA Medical Center; Jerry Mendell, MD, Ohio State University, Columbus; John Noseworthy, MD, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; Robert Ruff, MD (retiring as associate editor), Cleveland VA Medical Center; and William Theodore, MD, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda.

The recent move of the Neurology editorial office from Cleveland, OH, to Rochester, NY, and the two changes in publishers in 1 year have presented considerable challenges. I am optimistic, however, that the changes in editorial policy and in reducing publication delay will result in more rapid dissemination of the best research and the most influential opinions in neurology.
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