Message from the Editors to our ad hoc Reviewers

Over 95% of papers submitted for publication in Neurology are sent for peer review. Most papers have at least two ad hoc reviewers and virtually all published papers have had three or more reviewers. Neurology depends upon the dedication, skill, and commitment of our ad hoc reviewers.

The mean time from manuscript submission to initial decision has been decreased to less than 3 weeks. Expedited papers are usually peer reviewed within 14 days. In addition to initial reviews, over three-quarters of papers require re-review by one or more peer reviewers. Many even require third reviews. In the case of differing opinions on a paper, senior reviewers are often asked to help adjudicate between reviews.

Our reviewers are expert and experienced. When we ask for the assistance of a new reviewer we usually obtain at least two reviews from established experts. The busiest, most senior leaders in clinical neuroscience are among our best and most timely reviewers.

Reviewers can learn both from reviewing new work and from seeing the opinions of other reviewers. The Editor-in-Chief is occasionally asked for advice by reviewers as to "How am I doing?" In addition to providing a critique on the content of reviews, timeliness is the Editor-in-Chief's concern. The best reviewers review papers quickly. The risk of such behavior is that the Editor may misinterpret a good reviewer's alacrity as an indication that the reviewer needs more work. Reviewers can inform journal offices about number of papers they can handle (as well as indicating times when they are overcommitted or unavailable).

The rewards for reviewers include the knowledge that they are contributing to good science, the opportunity to gain perspective on their field, and experience that improves their own ability to write effectively. Good reviewers are generally excellent mentors and accomplished scientists.

Our reviewers work anonymously. Neither the authors nor the other reviewers know their identity. However, the Editors know and have the highest admiration for these established and emerging leaders in their fields of expertise.

Listed below are the reviewers who completed reviews in the 6 months between April and October 2001. Those with an asterisk reviewed 5 or more papers, and those with two asterisks reviewed 10 or more—many of them 20 or more. An increasing number of our reviewers are from outside the United States. The timeliness and care of these reviewers is equal to those from the United States.

The Editors thank the following reviewers who contributed their time and expertise to the success of Neurology.

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Brashear, H.R.
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Brey, Robin L.
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*Neurology* 2001;57;2157-2160
DOI 10.1212/WNL.57.12.2157

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