Practice, Politics, and Papers

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At the beginning of a new year, it is good to again reflect on our journal. The journal, *Neurocritical Care*, has done well, received a respectable impact factor, and continues to publish interesting papers that impact on our daily practice. The journal is a society membership benefit and a good bargain. Moreover, the journal is part of the HINARI program (www.who.int/hinari) and is provided for free or at very low costs to developing countries (mainly in Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Australasia, Far East, Indian subcontinent, Central and South America).

Our 2008 statistics look good. The average number of days between the date the manuscript was received and the first editorial decision is 21 days. If we like what you send us we move quickly, do not bother with minutiae and try to get it published soon. The average time between acceptance and *Online First* publication has been halved and is now less than 3 weeks. Access to the journal is reliable and more readers and authors are showing interest. There was an 8-fold increase in the number of downloads compared with last year.

Our aim has remained fairly straightforward. Although we publish experimental studies and reviews on evolving technology, the journal, I believe, should remain a journal that regularly publishes on practice and politics.

Practice in the Neurosciences Intensive Care Unit may involve management protocols, changes in day-to-day practice and therefore manuscripts should have general applicability. We like to show how patients are managed, how their complications are handled, and how indications

for certain procedures are defined. We are interested how trials are run and also in the results. Feasibility studies may not easily find a home, but *Neurocritical Care* will seriously consider these manuscripts. We may practice in an evidence free world but we like to change that.

Neurocritical Care is also interested in politics as we further define our field. Some of us appear they are on a providential mission, thrive with pushing the envelope and try to open a discussion on who does what and why. Others find progress in compromise in order to escalate the role in care. *Neurocritical Care* should welcome papers that address turf but we will not publish studies that are selective in the extreme. In forthcoming issues, important procedures such as percutaneous tracheostomy and ventriculostomy placement by neurointensivists will be discussed. These papers may create a sense of annoy, but other positions will be presented to create a counter punch. It is for the readers to decide which side to take and I believe these discussions can only be productive and helpful.

This year, we have the opportunity to post videos. This creates a new complexity (e.g., patient consent), but videotaping certain neurological features or neuro endovascular procedures or procedures at the bedside can be posted on the Springer site. We hope we will be able to post clips this year.

Every year we switch covers and I am again grateful for David Factor to provide such magnificent illustrations. The covers represent some aspects of neurocritical care and this year it is the brain–heart linkage. With every issue, we will change the colors so that the individual issues are better distinguished.

After five years, the editorial board is ready for some changes, and we will add the following editorial board members. We welcome Drs. Richard Bernstein, Anish

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Bjardwaj, Ricardo Carhuapoma, Jan Claassen, Jennifer Frontera, Romergryko Geocadin, Andreas Kramer, Giuseppe Lanzino, Peter Papadakos, Jose Suarez, and Bradley White. They all bring expertise in specific areas. Dr. Rabinstein will continue as a section editor with the main responsibility to write the section “Spanning the Globe”. We thank Drs. Hacke, Hanley, Henderson, Guijar, Lancomis,

Shorvon, and Vinuella. They have all been very supportive of the journal in its early years, and I thank them for their service. I also thank the Ad Hoc reviewers—listed below—who have been willing to review papers and improve on the quality of the manuscripts, and I am pleased to see the number of devoted reviewers is increasing. I am grateful for the time invested by them.

M. Giulia Abate
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