

Editorial Introduction

This is the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. The philosophy of this journal is a multidisciplinary team approach – paralleling the rehabilitation team. Our goal is to encourage interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration regarding all aspects of pediatric rehabilitation medicine. We hope this approach will broaden the education of the reader and translate to an enhanced level of clinical care for patients.

This philosophy stems from my education in public health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, medical education at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, residency training in Pediatrics and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Wayne State University School of Medicine, as well as serving as an attending physician at New York University Medical Center, Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center and my current position at Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland. One of the core tenets of physiatry training is the rehabilitation team – consisting of the physiatrist, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, vocational rehabilitation, neuropsychology, psychology, nursing, child life and social work. The team also works closely with various referring physicians – neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedics, neonatology, hematology/oncology and others. The overall goal is the maximization of each child's functional capabilities.

The editorial board has been structured to parallel the rehabilitation team both nationally and internationally. Content areas not currently represented will be added when appropriate experts are identified. Each issue will have a primary theme with authorship of articles requested to be by two different disciplines in an effort to encourage an interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge. From an editorial perspective, the journal strives to adhere to the recommendations of the International Committee of Journal Editors (ICJME) [1]. Full disclosure regarding author contribution, financial disclosures, and funding support is required. Application for indexing will be made by the publisher after three issues and will be retroactive. From an electronic standpoint, the journal will also be available online at

the publishers web site [2]. Manuscript submission and peer review will also be conducted online to improve both publication time and communication. All articles with data will be reviewed by the journal's biostatistician for statistical integrity.

This first issue is primarily dedicated to the training aspects of pediatric rehabilitation medicine (PRM) specialists and other members of the rehabilitation team. The reader will be able to gain a basic knowledge of the training requirements for neurosurgery, orthopedics, speech, psychology, dental, general surgery, general pediatrics, nursing, child life and the importance of team work from a therapy perspective all written by invited specialists. The case report section highlights the three different training tracks available for PRM – rehabilitation training followed by a fellowship, a combined program followed by a fellowship, or pediatric training followed by rehabilitation training and a fellowship. Kolaski and Logan provide a comprehensive review of the use of baclofen pumps.

The journal also strives to encourage an interactive dialogue. Consequently, each issue will include and welcomes submission of appropriate commentaries, editorials, original articles and research, case reports, review articles, communications, letters to the editor, book reviews, and conference announcements. A Continuing Medical Education opportunity offered through Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland will also be available.

This is also an opportunity to recognize and thank those people and organizations who have assisted in the undertaking of this new journal. First, IOS Press and their staff is to be commended for supporting the concept and publication of this new journal. IOS is an international publisher headquartered in Amsterdam with over 80 journal titles, and more than 100 new books annually published worldwide. Second, a special thanks to the three associate editors (Gaebler, Nelson and Turk), topic editors, and reviewers – all of whom recognize the importance of pediatric rehabilitation medicine. Third, to thank the managing editor at Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, Robert Newells, the administration at Children's for

providing the managing editor, and the CME Office at Children's for supporting the CME credits. Finally, I wish to acknowledge the support and encouragement of my academic mentor, Paul Wehman, PhD, from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Jacob A. Neufeld
Editor-in-Chief

References

- [1] <http://www.icmje.org/>.
- [2] www.iospress.nl.