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Introduction

We are very pleased to introduce this issue of *NeuroRehabilitation* to the readership. We hope that the highlights of the second International Brain Injury Association (IBIA) meeting, which was held in May of 1997 in Seville, Spain, provide readers with some current insights into the care of persons with acquired brain injury (ABI). We have invited a distinguished panel of contributors from across the world to contribute to this unique issue of the journal.

Our first article was written by the esteemed, internationally recognized, neurosurgeon, Bryan Jennett, MD. His article deals with a neurosurgeon's perspective on the last 50 years of brain injury care and provides interesting insights into the evolution of expertise developed in the acute aspects of acquired brain injury (ABI) care. This article will provide historical caveats not just for neurosurgeons but for all professionals working with persons after brain injury. It will be of particular interest to those who are relatively new in the field.

Our second article, written by DePompei, Epps, Savage, Blosser, and Castelli, provides an overview of educational needs of children and adolescents after brain injury. Although everyone would certainly acknowledge that this is a very important area of pediatric rehabilitation, there appears to be only limited international expertise and clinical writings in this area. We feel this article provides a very timely and relevant overview of current assessment and treatment strategies dealing with educational re-entry of children and adolescents following acquired brain injury.

Provision of a foundation for educating, and just as importantly, certifying professionals work-

ing with survivors of acquired brain injury in the community is the focus of the third article in this issue, written by Niemann, Seaton, Leon-Carrion, Booth and Perino. This international group of clinicians provide an overview of the on going attempts at developing a certification process for post-acute rehabilitation specialists which would be used to provide assurances that these individuals have met a minimal standard of educational training prior to working with this, at times, challenging patient population.

Post acute issues as germane to family and community re-entry are the focus of the fourth article by Voogt, Teasdale, Patrick, and Carman. These individuals are highly respected in the area of long term care and community re-entry. They share this expertise in a series of short papers which have been integrated into the overall article.

Shifting gears away from clinical care, Judge Leon-Jimenez writes about ethical and legal issues in the context of brain injury rehabilitation. This article will hopefully assist clinicians in increasing their insight into the ethical dilemmas often faced by clinicians, survivors and family, alike. Often times, ethical and legal issues are not an area of training for professionals in the field of neurologic rehabilitation. Unfortunately, professionals often learn about these issues through experience rather than consider them in a proactive fashion. Having a greater knowledge of these issues up front will assist clinicians in addressing both ethical and legal issues in the context of ongoing care of persons with acquired brain injury.

Dr Leon-Carrion writes about a new inventory called the NECHAPI. This proposed tool will hopefully assist in planning and monitoring effects of therapies directed at modifying personality. Without a doubt, new tools that offer unique perspectives on measurement of outcome are of interest to all clinicians working in this aspect of psychological care.

In this issue we have also included an unsolicited article by Mathiowetz and Matuska. The authors present an excellent study on the effectiveness of a 1-week in-patient rehabilitation program on self-care abilities of individuals with multiple sclerosis.

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