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Introduction

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Post-poliomyelitis syndrome (PPS) is the most common moter neuron disease today, and is now recognized as a major health problem in the USA and Canada. PPS is a progressive clinical syndrome consisting of a symptom complex of new weakness, fatigue, and pain in those individuals who have recovered from past paralytic polio. A large proportion of patients who have survived this illness are now being confronted with new health problems related to their original illness several decades ago. There is still no well defined cause of PPS, and no specific treatment. The actual existence of PPS is even being questioned by some investigators. Although there are still many unanswered questions about PPS, and much research work still remains to be completed in this field, individualized management programs can be developed to help the persons affected, and to help prevent or delay the onset of PPS in stable patients with past paralytic polio.

This issue of *NeuroRehabilitation* will provide up to date information on PPS, and will concentrate on the management of this important syndrome. Several experts in the PPS field have been gathered to present clear and comprehensive practical information on the clinical presentation and rehabilitation of PPS. This issue will include articles on the history, epidemiology and clinical presentations of PPS, on the pathophysiology and diagnosis of PPS, on the general management of PPS, on muscular function and exercise in post-polio patients, on biomechanical abnormalities and orthotic management in post-polio patients, and on pulmonary dysfunction and management in PPS. The information presented will be useful both to physicians and to health professionals caring for patients with past paralytic polio. Future treatment possibilities will also be discussed, providing hope to the many individuals affected.