



# Championing advocacy

## Changes start with us

When first planning this issue of *Neurology: Clinical Practice* (NCP), we found a timely connection between a letter posted to “The Nerve!” (p. 2) and a planned article on advocacy (p. 39), and further connection to a pair of articles on formularies (p. 71 and p. 75).

Little did we expect an even stronger connection of advocacy to another article, this one exploring a more rational approach to use of EMG/nerve conduction studies (NCS) in patients with radicular symptoms after spinal trauma (p. 8).

We're all painfully aware of the recent and unexpected cuts in Medicare reimbursement for EMG/NCS. In addition to advocacy efforts<sup>1</sup> to reverse the cuts, we as neurologists need to be looking at other ways to ensure that such resources are utilized in a rational and appropriate manner. Following existing American Academy of Neurology (AAN) and American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine guidelines is the first step. AAN has also signed on to the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation's *Choosing Wisely* program, promoting rational use of treatments and procedures to make our patients and us “better stewards of finite health care resources.”<sup>2</sup> We believe the EMG/NCS article represents an opening of that dialogue and would like to see more articles discussing that type of process submitted to NCP. At the same time, we also expect these articles to generate controversy, and welcome responses submitted to “The Nerve!” Let's have this difficult discussion!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Corboy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John R. Corboy, MD, FAAN

1. Palatucci Advocacy Leadership Forum. Available at: <http://www.aan.com/go/advocacy/active/palf>. Accessed December 18, 2012.
2. Choosing wisely. Available at: <http://www.abimfoundation.org/Initiatives/Choosing-Wisely.aspx>. Accessed December 18, 2012.

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John R. Corboy

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