

The convergence of neurology and psychiatry



Prof. Joseph B. Martin, MD, PhD, former Dean of Harvard Medical School, wrote: “Neurology and psychiatry have, for much of the past century, been separated by an artificial wall created by the divergence of their philosophical approaches and research and treatment methods. Scientific advances in recent decades have made it clear that this separation is arbitrary and counterproductive. Neurologic and psychiatric research are moving closer together in the tools they use, the questions they ask, and the theoretical frameworks they employ.”¹

This issue of *Neurology® Clinical Practice* (NCP) features a Spotlight on Neurology and Mental Health curated by Tamara Pringsheim. In her introductory Editorial, Dr. Pringsheim (p. 96) gives a brief overview of 6 diverse articles related to the convergence of neurology and psychiatry. She urges us in practice “to explore further cross-disciplinary collaborations, increasing our understanding and developing improved therapeutic interventions for our patients with disorders and diseases of the nervous system.”

Our Practice Current series explores the topic: “How do you treat neuromyelitis optica?” Commentary by Aravind Ganesh (p. 170) provides a brief overview of the topic and commentary from 3 global experts. Hill et al. (p. 109) investigate the quality of care delivered by nurse practitioner–physician teams to expand clinic appointment availability for patients with epilepsy. Yu et al. (p. 179) provide a framework for neurologists to implement a note release policy in their practice with a goal of improved patient engagement in their own care.

As always, we welcome your feedback on this issue and invite suggestions for improving NCP.

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

REFERENCE

1. Martin JB. The integration of neurology, psychiatry, and neuroscience in the 21st century. *Am J Psychiatry* 2002;159:695–704.

Neurology® Clinical Practice

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Neurol Clin Pract 2017;7;95

DOI 10.1212/CPJ.0000000000000353

This information is current as of April 10, 2017

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Neurol Clin Pract is an official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 2011, it is now a bimonthly with 6 issues per year. Copyright © 2017 American Academy of Neurology. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 2163-0402. Online ISSN: 2163-0933.

