From the Editor’s Desk

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The physician as captain of the patient-centered ship

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Articles in this issue of Neurology: Clinical Practice remind us that technology, recommendations, and incentives may guide high-quality care, but they cannot replace the clinician’s acumen in specific patient encounters.

Davis-Hayes et al. (p. 40) present a practical, patient-centered algorithm for discussing medical retirement from sport for neurologic reasons. An accompanying editorial from Baughman and Tsao (p. 6) highlights the complexities in guiding individual decision-making in both youth and adult athletes.

Armstrong and Gronseth (p. 58) provide background on the guideline creation process, offer advice on how to critically evaluate and apply a guideline, and emphasize effectively using guidelines within a shared decision-making framework. Mantyh et al. (p. 62) discuss the implications of newly reimbursable cognitive care codes in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and describe how non-face-to-face services provide neurologists with new tools to deliver sustainable, high-value patient-centered care.

Wallace and Bird (p. 27) examine the benefits and limitations of molecular genetic tests commonly used to determine the etiology of hereditary ataxia. An accompanying Editorial by Alex Paciorkowski (p. 4) reasons that “consultation with a medical geneticist familiar with genomic testing technologies is encouraged to assure valuable patient care time and resources are used most effectively.”

February 2018 marks the 2-year anniversary of our interactive project Practice Current. We invite neurologists, resident and fellow trainees, and advanced practice providers worldwide to share their practice with fast online surveys on hot topics. Ganesh and Wesley (p. 67) provide commentary on available evidence and opinions from internationally recognized experts on our latest topic: “When do you suspect autoimmune encephalitis and what is the role of antibody testing?” Explore this topic and others on our newly redesigned website: compare your practice with peers and see real-time results displayed on an interactive world map.
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