

INTRODUCTION

This issue of *NeuroRehabilitation: An Interdisciplinary Journal* focuses on the topic of pediatric rehabilitation. All too often, our field has neglected the pediatric and adolescent population relative to both their physical medicine and rehabilitation needs. Obviously, the potential topics of discussion are as diverse as the many faces of the children we may come into contact with as clinicians. We have tried to focus on a few key issues for this volume of the journal, including ethical issues, acquired cognitive linguistic deficits, school re-entry and family needs. A comprehensive perspective on rehabilitation issues in pediatric neuro-oncology is also provided. Specifically, Dr. Marks and colleagues assess “need perceptions” of families of children with brain injury and the degree to which these needs have been met by providers. Ms. Lash and her group assess differences in potential conflicts in which the medical system attempts to reintegrate children with traumatic brain injury into the schools system relative to the manner in which this is done by the educational system itself. This grant-funded study looks at the difficulties that were encountered relative to the different expectations of the various “providers” and limitations of the system relative to facilitating school re-entry. Ms. Ringle-Bartels and Ms. Story provide us with a theoretical basis for treating acquired cognitive linguistic deficits with a rationale for intervention

based on Piaget, information processing theory, Luria, and learning theory. Ethical issues are addressed by Drs. Banja and Jann relative to the complexity of ethical issues surrounding treatment of pediatric patients with neurologic disabilities. Dr. Michaud and her colleagues address an extremely important area of pediatric rehabilitation, providing us with an overview on the topic of neuro-oncologic rehabilitation.

We have also taken the opportunity in this issue to provide readers with two review articles distinct from the main topic of this issue. Drs. Paul and Barlow have provided us with an up-to-date review of neurogenic heterotopic ossification examining issues of pathophysiology and assessment as well as treatment. Drs. Novack and Penrod provide us with an update on methodologies for evaluating the effectiveness of interventions for agitation following traumatic brain injury, including a review of various treatment modalities for this commonly seen neurobehavioral condition.

We hope once again that this issue provides you with further helpful information that will impact in a positive fashion on your clinical practice. We welcome your comments and suggestions as we plan for future issues of the journal.

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