

# Nervous dispositions

William Milberg

**The Neuroscientist: A Review Journal Bridging Neurobiology, Neurology and Psychiatry.** Editor Stephen G. Waxman. *Williams and Wilkins*. 6/yr. USA \$214, elsewhere \$239 (institutional); USA \$107, elsewhere \$132 (personal); USA \$59, elsewhere \$84 (student).

**Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society.** Editor-in-chief Igor Grant. *Cambridge University Press*. 6/yr. USA, Canada and Mexico \$160, elsewhere £112 (institutional); USA, Canada and Mexico \$80, elsewhere £61 (personal).

**European Journal of Neurology: The Official Journal of the European Federation of Neurological Societies.** Editor François Boller. *Rapid Science*. 6/yr. \$365, £215 (institutional); \$160, £95 (personal).

WHEN I was an eager graduate student in neuropsychology in the mid-1970s, I was under the impression that through consistent nightly reading of a few key journals one could keep up with the most important developments in behavioural neurology, basic neuropsychology and even the fundamental neurosciences. I was able to hold on to what was even then a quixotic overestimation of my own diligence because there were only about a dozen journals to worry about that contained 'brain', 'neuro' or 'cortex' in their titles.

Today there are at least a hundred such periodicals, so even the most compulsive, manic scholars of impeccable diligence could not hope to keep up with advances outside a few of the many new disciplines that have emerged in the neurosciences in the past two decades. This problem is particularly acute for such increasingly neuroscientific clinical disciplines as neurology, psychiatry and neuropsychology: each of these areas has spawned a clinical literature that in some cases has taken on a life happily independent of the concerns and issues of the basic sciences. Any publication that could help today's specialized investigators and practising clinicians to stay in contact with theoretical and empirical progress in the basic and clinical brain sciences would be surely welcome.

These three new journals seem to share the goal of providing both scientists and clinicians with a contact point encompassing a broad spread of topics ranging from the molecular genetics of neurological disease to evaluations of techniques for the assessment of dementia. Of the three, *The Neuroscientist*, which uniquely is a journal consisting entirely of critical review articles, is perhaps the most successful in presenting the specialist with an opportunity to survey areas that might not otherwise be easily accessible. Each issue contains a "Comments" section consisting of several brief items or abstracts of recently published results, "Neurosciences Updates" and "Progress" sections presenting medium-length reviews of topics of

emerging interest such as molecular neurogenetics, and a "Reviews" section containing longer articles on topics in the basic and clinical neurosciences. Personally, I enjoyed 'catching-up' on the role of the neurotransmitter GABA in mood disorders and on recent advances in the molecular biology of neural plasticity, topics that would otherwise be too far from my interest in cognitive and clinical neuropsychology.

This well-produced journal is replete with finely reproduced black-and-white photographs and well-constructed tables and graphs. Even though it does not contain peer-reviewed papers of original scientific data, it should usefully occupy a niche in institutional libraries and be a worthwhile addition to many personal libraries.

*European Journal of Neurology (EJN)* and *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society (JINS)* are also designed to reach a broad audience of clinicians and scientists, in two different but related fields. Both have several features in common: they are flagship publications of large professional or scholarly societies; they contain forums for both empirical and review papers; they give authors the

opportunity to publish peer-reviewed results relatively rapidly (about three months); and they present an assortment of fairly high-quality papers on a variety of clinically driven topics.

For clinical neuropsychologists, *JINS* achieves its goal of allowing them to keep abreast of issues in basic experimental neuropsychology. It contains several departments unique to neuropsychological journals: a "Dialog" section with topical debates between distinguished investigators such as theoretical approaches to memory; "Critical Reviews" and "Symposium" sections for empirical papers concentrating on single topics; and a "Rapid Communications" section containing mainly brief reports.

My guess is that neurologists will not be equally struck by *EJN's* uniqueness as a neurology journal. It is similar in organization and scope to *Neurology*, *Brain*, *Archives of Neurology* and other well-established publications. Its ability to provide rapid publication (three to six months) is a noteworthy feature, and the editors encourage paper submissions from investigators in Eastern Europe who might not otherwise publish in an English-language journal. This seemingly good journal, however, does not yet have a distinct identity.

Finally, although both *EJN* and *JINS* are similar in size, *JINS* is relatively inexpensive. Ultimately, the value of these two journals to institutions will depend on the discipline of the readers served. But it is my guess that at this stage *JINS* would be more sorely missed by neuropsychologists than *EJN* would be by neurologists. □

*William Milberg is at the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 1400 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, Massachusetts 02132, USA.*

## Journals index

Adsorption	41	Analysis and Characterization	44
Alzheimer's Research	35	Invertebrate Neuroscience	34
Anaerobe	40	Journal of Biomedical Science	35
Aquatic Geochemistry	42	Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society	33
Auditory Neuroscience	34	Journal of Molecular Medicine	35
Autonomous Robots	43	Journal of Synchrotron Radiation	42
Bernoulli	40	Journal of Undergraduate Science	44
Biospectroscopy	37	Microbial Drug Resistance	36
The Chemical Intelligencer	41	Molecular Breeding	39
Complexity	43	Nature Medicine	35
Current Issues in Public Health	38	Neuroimmunomodulation	36
Current Opinion in Collid and Interface Science	41	The Neuroscientist	33
Cytokines and Molecular Therapy	36	Odyssey: The Glaxo Wellcome Journal of Innovation in Healthcare	38
Environment and History	40	Pharmaceutical News	38
European Journal of Neurology	33	RNA	37
Folding and Design	37	Science and Engineering Ethics	42
Genome Research	39	Science Spectra	38
International Journal of Forensic Document Examiners	44	Supramolecular Science	43
International Journal of Polymer			