EDITOR'S PAGE

Animal research related to spinal cord injury

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There is general interest in animal research where two groups are confronted challenging its necessity, its ethical consequences, its real value related to human physiology, pathophysiology and medicine. Some believe that animal research plays a crucial part in the development of medical, veterinary and scientific breakthroughs. Others find it unethical and propose other alternatives. It is not the purpose to go into this debate here.

But we fully agree that if animals are involved, research should be responsible, ethical and judicious, following the international guidelines and treaties which are available. Laboratory animals are living creatures that deserve to be treated with respect, care and compassion. This means the necessity of safe, reliable transportation, properly trained laboratory personnel and adequate housing of the animals under constant surveillance of a specialized veterinary. Prior to beginning a study, scientists must demonstrate that they have considered alternative methods to animal research, that their research cannot be successfully done without animal models, and that their studies are designed to produce needed results and information.

In *Spinal Cord* we are very attentive to the quality of methodology, ethical approval, animal care described in the studies submitted to us. We are happy that many international research groups choose *Spinal Cord* to report their results. There is a long list of animal research studies which appeared during the last 10 years in our journal. Also this issue contains several of such studies beside papers on a variety of clinical evaluations and data. You will find them of great interest.

ANNOUNCEMENT

ISCOS Seeks Qualified Candidates for new Editors-in-Chief

Jean Jacques Wyndaele, who has served as Editor-in-Chief of *Spinal Cord* and *Spinal Cord Series and Cases*, will retire from this role early next year. ISCOS has started the process of appointing a new Editor-in-Chief for each journal separately.

Spinal Cord is a specialised, international journal that has been publishing spinal cord related manuscripts since 1963. It appears monthly, online and in print, and accepts contributions on spinal cord anatomy, physiology and management of injury and disease. *Spinal Cord* is multi-disciplinary and publishes contributions on basic science, clinical and applied studies, psychology and epidemiology of spinal disorders. It publishes high quality original papers and topical reviews.

The scientific objectives of the journal include publishing (1) peer-reviewed papers representing primarily translational and clinical research findings, and (2) material that informs readers on new developments and controversies relevant to spinal cord lesion care.

Spinal Cord Series and Cases, launched in 2015, is an international, online-only journal which publishes case reports, small case series, letters to the editor and book reviews. It specialises in material of a national or a local interest that address all aspects of spinal cord anatomy, physiology and lesions (injury and disease). *Spinal Cord Series and Cases* follows a continuous publishing model, with available content published every week and articles free to read after 12 months.

Additional information on the journals can be found on the journals' websites: www.nature.com/sc and www.nature.com/scsandc

For job description /further information please contact Wyndaelejj@skynet.be

Applications should be submitted to the selection committee before 15 December 2016 at Wyndaelejj@skynet.be