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Editorial

Journal of NeuroVirology: A new exanded scope

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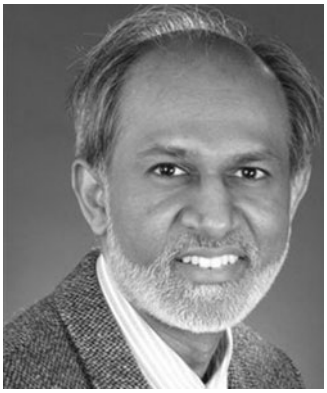
Clinical presentations and the pathogenesis of viral induced neurological illness are often complicated due to the presence and/or co-participation of non-viral pathogens. In particular, the increasing use of a repertoire of immunomodulatory drugs in the treatment of a variety of diseases ranging from cancer to autoimmune disorders increases the chances for emerging infectious diseases and opportunistic pathogens of viral and non-viral origin in the same host. For a decade, since its inception in 1995, the *Journal of NeuroVirology* (JNV) has provided a unique platform for cross communication of basic scientists with an interest in neurotropic viruses and physicians involved in treatment of patients with viral associated disorders of the nervous system. The outcome has been rewarding as many novel findings were reliably disseminated to JNV's readership, which have common interests yet diverse scientific backgrounds. This has helped initiate many collaborations resulting in better understanding of the pathogenesis of a variety of viral induced diseases, and the development of new therapeutic strategies. In light of numerous recent clinical observations on the co-involvement of viral and non-viral pathogens in diseases affecting the nervous system and after careful evaluation and consultation with the Neuro-infectious Diseases Section of the American Academy of Neurology and members of JNV's Editorial Board, it was decided to increase the journal's scope by publishing additional articles which are relevant to other infections of the nervous system. This will allow us to better serve our audience, both in the laboratory and clinical settings, with information which can advance the field of neurovirology and infections of the nervous system as a whole, and provide a more complete picture which can be utilized for better care of affected patients. I appreciate the support of JNV's Senior Associate Editors and our publisher in this exciting new initiative. Dr. Avindra Nath, a prominent neurologist with expertise in CNS infections, has accepted my invitation to serve as Senior Associate Editor of the new section, which deals with articles related to non-viral infections of the nervous system. Starting with this issue, the journal will thus be called "*Journal of Neurovirology: Dedicated to Neurological Infections*". The journal invites original articles in both clinical and basic research along with invited reviews and summaries of clinical conferences on neurological infections. To reflect the expanded scope and increase its international presence, JNV has added several new experts to its Editorial Board. It is anticipated that this change will increase JNV's readership and thus have a greater impact on the field.



Dr. Avindra Nath is a professor in the Departments of Neurology and Neuroscience and the Director of the Division of Neuroimmunology and Neurological Infections at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. He is the Chair elect of the Section of Neuro-infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Neurology. Dr. Nath serves as a member of the immunology advisory group of the Federal Drug Administration and has often served in an advisory capacity to the National Institutes of Health on issues related to neurological infections. Dr. Nath received his medical degree from India and completed a residency in Neurology from University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston. He did a fellowship in Neuroimmunology from the same institution and another fellowship in Neurovirology from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke in Bethesda, Maryland. He has been an independent investigator since 1990. His laboratory studies the mechanisms of neuronal injury in the setting of HIV infection and the establishment of viral reservoirs in brain. He has published over 200 manuscripts and chapters on these subjects and has co-edited a book on Clinical Neurovirology. He is a clinician scientist whose major research interests are to understand the pathophysiology of the neurological complications of HIV infection and to develop new therapeutic agents for these complications.