Notes from the Editor

Beginning with this issue, abstracts will be open-access for all articles published in the current issue of the Bulletin. Full-text current articles will remain exclusively available to IACFS/ME members. By opening up the abstracts, we hope to attract a wider readership that is interested in fatigue study from multiple perspectives such as disease-related, occupational, or non-disease fatigue.

To this end, Dr. Leonard Jason from DePaul University in Chicago contributed an important article to the fall edition of the Bulletin. Dr. Jason is a world-renowned expert in community-based research with a focus on significant public health concerns including chronic fatigue. In his comprehensive review of epidemiological and natural history studies in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), he highlights the strengths and shortcomings of population-based studies in CFS challenging those who may have a narrow view of the condition. Prospective, longitudinal studies from his own group support the premise that onset and maintenance of CFS is associated with a variety of risk factors and that the syndrome’s course can be different and vary in its expression depending on the segment of the population under investigation.

One of the “special” populations that warrant increasing attention are children. We have reported on CFS in children in previous issues of the Bulletin. The fall issue includes a short report by Dr. Takako Johdoi, a researcher and clinician from Kumamoto University, Japan. This group of Japanese pediatricians found that more than half of the high school students presenting to their clinic with symptoms of school phobia also fulfilled criteria for the 2007 criteria for Childhood CFS (CCFS). Most of the children’s symptoms were moderate to severe and not medically explained. Preliminary reports such as the one by our Japanese colleagues support Dr. Jason’s call for more prospective studies and better surveillance to improve understanding of the illnesses course and profile in different segments of the population.

The fall issue of the Bulletin also features another “first”. Our new section ‘Letters to the Editor’ has taken off with a collegial discussion of an article published in the summer issue authored by Drs. Genevieve Royle and John Pimm. I hope you will follow the vibrant discussion with interest.

Gudrun Lange, PhD
Editor

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