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New journals generally face a difficult gestation. Finding publishers, appointing editors, recruiting Editorial Board members, calling for manuscripts, selecting peer-reviewers who will deliver on time and finding substitutes when they do not; and all of this without accreditation at the major medical indexes, making authors understandably reluctant to commit their best work when it cannot yet be cited.¹ *Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment* (NDT) is no exception, but did have the good fortune that publisher Dove Medical Press was available and fully supportive.

Why a new journal in the crowded area of neuroscience? The idea for NDT began in Dove Medical Press when we felt a real place where neurology could meet psychiatry and where patient and caregiver needs and concerns could be addressed in the public scientific domain was needed. The emergence of imaging as an everyday tool, coupled with our growing ability to identify discrete areas of the brain that are involved in disease and the corresponding neurochemical and neuropathological processes, has served to blur the divide between the two specialties. Many neurological conditions present with psychiatric symptoms, and vice-versa; drugs useful in one specialty are often applied in the other; while the side effects of many of the treatments that we use for the two types of illness are not necessarily confined to the psychiatric or neurological domains. The importance of this crossover area of research was affirmed by the interest of the International Neuropsychiatric Association (INA) in having NDT as its house journal.

In the first issue we have tried to encourage this vision with articles on the regulation of affect and on the most prevalent affective disorder, depression, including the way in which patient characteristics can determine response to antidepressant treatment, together with others on cognition in Parkinson’s disease and the genetics and brain morphology of patients with Alzheimer’s disease. We also encourage the submission of experimental animal studies that illustrate and inform on aspects of human conditions, hence a paper on an experimental model of post-traumatic stress disorder. In addition to the Commentary, Reviews, Original Research, and Letters appearing in this issue, we do plan to publish Case Reports and Expert Opinion. I wish to thank the members of our editorial board, reviewers, authors, and Dove Medical Press for their tremendous help in preparing this inaugural issue.

Notes

¹ *Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment* will be eligible to be considered for online indexing later in 2005.

