

TMJ: Translation and Moving Forward

All articles in this issue of the *Journal of Orofacial Pain* deal with features or mechanisms of disorders of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) and/or associated musculature. One article (Carleson et al), a study of the basic science of the TMJ, reports on the calcitonin-gene-related-peptide changes in the masseter muscle and brain in an animal model of jaw myositis. Another (Defabianis) is a case report on TMJ injury and pain in children. The remaining articles are clinical or modeling studies that focus on temporomandibular disorders (TMD). They address patient compliance with TMD treatment recommendations (Wig et al), palpation and algometry in the recognition of TMD (Vischer et al), the relationship between somatization and depression (Yap et al) or secondary otalgia (Kuttilla et al) and TMD, the modeling of TMJ and muscle forces (Iwasaki et al), and anatomic relationships within the TMJ (Seligman and Pullinger). Of particular note is the first article in the issue, a topical review by Lobbezoo et al on pathological mechanisms of and diagnostic approaches to TMJ disorders, in particular those related to Group II (disc displacement) and Group III (arthralgia, arthritis, and arthrosis) disorders as classified by the Research Diagnostic Criteria for TMD. The topical review outlines our current knowledge of the epidemiology, natural history, risk factors, and causal models of disc displacement and arthralgia and offers new insights into the functional anatomy, imaging, and pathology of TMJ disorders. It emphasizes the complexity of the musculoskeletal system involved in TMJ function and dysfunction and the large number of interacting factors, including genetic, anatomic, and functional influences, suggest that in most clinical cases there is no single causative factor. The topical review also emphasizes the need for concerted integrated multidisciplinary efforts to better understand these disorders and improve their diagnosis and management. It highlights new and evolving imaging techniques and biological markers of tissue pathology and nociceptive processes that may

translate into improved diagnosis of these conditions. The article also draws attention to the frustration that patients with persistent TMJ disorders can experience because of our limited understanding of the etiology of most TMJ disorders and the lack of consensus on their diagnosis and management. Indeed, such patient concerns were the major impetus behind a recent meeting of the TMJ Association in Bethesda, Maryland; as noted in the meeting review in this issue of the journal by Associate Editor Christian Stohler, several opportunities to elucidate the disease processes and improve diagnostic approaches, and thereby offer hope to patients suffering from these disorders, were identified at the meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to another of the journal's associate editors, Antoon De Laat of Belgium, who has decided to step down from this position later this year after many years of service as associate editor. I wish to acknowledge the tremendous contributions that Dr De Laat has provided to the journal in this position, and thereby to the AAOP and its affiliated academies. He has been a great ambassador for the journal, and indeed for the field of orofacial pain, and I wish him well in his future academic and professional activities in this field. *Merci, Antoon, et bonne chance!*

Finally, I would like to announce that Professor Alain Woda of the Universite d'Auvergne, France, will succeed Dr De Laat as associate editor of the journal. Professor Woda brings a wealth of clinical, research, and publishing and editorial experience to this position. I thank him for accepting this position and welcome him to the journal's editorial board. *Bienvenue, Alain!*



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Editor-in-Chief