The Journal of Angioedema

# Letter from the Editors

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Dear Colleague,

Although the field of angioedema research has been steadily progressing, a new era seems to be within reach. Several new therapies are in development and these recent advancements will offer clinicians an expanded armamentarium with which to treat patients with hereditary angioedema (HAE). At the same time, increased educational efforts will help raise awareness and reduce delays in diagnosis.

Our first article in this issue by Dr. Bruce Zuraw et al, assesses the impact of anabolic androgens on patients who are subsequently treated prophylactically with C1INH-nf. The authors look at the data from two prior trials of C1INH-nf for the prevention of HAE attacks to determine if C1INH-nf is effective irrespective of past androgen use.

The next article by Dr. Anastasios E. Germenis and Dr. Matthaios Speletas, looks at different forms of HAE attributable to bradykinin accumulation. The prototype HAE is caused by a genetic deficiency C1 inhibitor (C1-INH-HAE) and is characterized by remarkable allelic heterogeneity in that over 450 different mutations of various types in the *SERPING1* gene, encoding for the C1-inhibitor, have been detected. In addition, 2 new clinically indistinguishable forms of HAE with normal C1-INH activity have recently been described, one attributed to alterations in the *F12* gene encoding for coagulation factor XII (FXII-HAE), and another of unknown origin (U-HAE). The authors hope that the clarification of the genetic complexity of this disorder will not only shed light on the pathogenetic mechanisms of HAE but also lead to a more effective individualized treatment plan and prevention of attacks.

Finally, Dr. Hiroyuki Ohi et al demonstrate the effectiveness of educational activities in assisting clinicians in diagnosing rare conditions. They urge the initiation of these types of programs for other rare diseases to reduce misdiagnosis and thereby improve patient care.

Recent advances point to great strides in our understanding of rare disorders, however, reducing delays in diagnosing and treating patients with these and other rare diseases is of paramount importance.

We hope you find this issue of our open access journal useful and informative. We invite submissions of original research, review articles, clinical research findings, and case reports relating to the topic of angioedema, including its causes, forms and variants, diagnosis and treatment. All manuscripts will be reviewed by an editorial board of leading experts in the field prior to publication.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Aleena Banerji, MD and Marc A. Riedl, MD, MS