The Journal of Angioedema

# Letter from the Editors

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Dear Colleague,

The field of angioedema research is constantly evolving. In recent years we have developed a deeper understanding of the underlying mechanisms of angioedema as well as a growing awareness about how to improve the quality of life for patients. In addition to the ongoing research, several working groups have developed guidelines to aid the busy clinician in diagnosing and managing these disorders. Our first article in this issue focuses on one of the recent guideline recommendations, the concept of self-administration of C1-INH for treatment of HAE. This article by Dr. Ralph Shapiro looks at the concept of home-based management of HAE by presenting a retrospective report of intravenous self-administration of C1-INH in a group of patients with HAE.

Although it is well known that attacks of angioedema are characterized by edematous swelling of skin and mucosal tissue, the molecular mechanisms involved in these attacks are incompletely understood. Coen Maas, PhD discusses the elusive factors beyond a C1 esterase inhibitor deficiency which lead to an increased susceptibility for developing symptoms of HAE. He also points to recent technologic advances which enable researches to better analyze the activity of contact system enzymes. Finally, he offers hope that new bioassays will improve diagnosis and guide personalized treatment for patients with angioedema.

The next article by François Marceau, MD, PhD et al, reviews the pharmacologic and molecular identities of the B1 and B2 receptors with emphasis on drug development, receptor expression, signaling, and adaptation to persistent stimulation.

Péter Gál offers the reader a review of the complement system, an ancient part of the innate immune system. Although, the complement system can be activated through 3 different routes (the classical, alternative, and lectin pathways) this article focuses on activation and regulation of the lectin pathway of the complement system, and discusses the effects of C1-inhibitor deficiency within this pathway on worsening of symptoms in hereditary angioedema.

Although we have made great strides in our understanding of these disorders, the diagnosis, management, and treatment of patients with angioedema often remains challenging. This issue highlights some of the underlying causes of these disorders and offers further insights into potential home-based management of HAE.

We hope you find the second 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.

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