



## Dear Colleague:

This issue of the *Journal* contains features on a variety of topics, which we hope reflects the variety and richness of your clinical practice.

**Asthma.** Dr. Grum's sobering presentation on asthma suggests that its severity is often underestimated and it is often suboptimally managed. Many physicians place too much reliance on beta agonists and not enough on inhaled steroids and other anti-inflammatory medications. The mortality rate in asthma is increasing (*page 123*).

**Hypertension.** We need to do a better job of diagnosing and treating hypertension. Dr. Gifford gives us the bad news that only 24% of people with hypertension are being adequately treated and tells us what we should be doing about it (*page 143*).

**Cholesterol lowering.** The CARE (Cholesterol and Recurrent Events) trial demonstrated the effectiveness of "statin" therapy in preventing major coronary events in patients with average LDL cholesterol levels after myocardial infarction. Dr. Sprecher, a site principal investigator in this important study, discusses the importance of lipid lowering therapy (*page 129*).

**Animal and human bites.** Drs. Kelleher and Gordon describe management of animal and human bite wounds, focusing on indications for hospitalization, rabies immunization, and antibiotic therapy. Many such wounds

are more serious than they look (*page 137*).

**Common sense and statistics.** Statistical and clinical significance are not always the same. Dr. Feinstein, one of the founders of clinical epidemiology, injects some common sense into the interpretation of data generated by clinical trials (*page 127*).

**New epilepsy drugs.** Dr. Morris discusses the new generation of drugs for treatment of epilepsy and points out their advantages and disadvantages as compared with their earlier counterparts (*page 125*).

**Oncology drug development.** Dr. Peereboom reviews the intricate process by which cancer chemotherapeutic drugs move from the laboratory to the bedside. It is complex and detailed in order to ensure efficacy and to protect patients from unnecessary toxicity, which is unfortunately inherent in this class of drugs (*page 155*).

I hope you find these articles interesting and useful. We enjoy hearing from you—please let us know your thoughts.

Cordially,

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