JAMA Theme Issue on Neurology
Call for Papers

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JAMA will be publishing a theme issue on neurology in April 2014 to coincide with the American Academy of Neurology Scientific Sessions. It is appropriate and timely, coinciding with President Obama’s announcement of a major new neuroscience enterprise, the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. This initiative has grown out of the Brain Activity Map (BAM) project enthusiastically supported by National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins and the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy.1,2 The BAM project is still evolving in concept and direction. With the long-term goal to map the activity of every neuron in the human brain, the initial proposal is to study the combination of connectivity mapping with electrophysiological activity of single neurons and circuits in association with messenger RNA (mRNA) expression levels in small regions of the brain to develop insights into information processing and storage. Whereas the Human Genome Project was a major stimulus for advancing the understanding of genomics in the 20th century, the BAM project may provide similar impressive advances in answering the fundamental question: How does the brain work?

The BAM project provides a fitting culmination of the impressive basic and clinical neuroscientific advances that have occurred in the past decade. The JAMA theme issue on neurology is intended to capture this progress by providing key articles across a broad perspective, complementing the diverse interests of our readers. We will consider publishing articles that present new, novel, and significant investigations on a wide spectrum of neurological diseases; basic science human studies that advance knowledge about normal brain functions; randomized clinical trials reporting findings for new therapies for neurological diseases; investigations that characterize disease mechanisms; studies involving genetics, genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, and pharmacogenomics; stem cell studies as therapeutic models; observational studies that inform population-epidemiological topics; and reports on health policy issues related to neurological disorders. In addition, we welcome scholarly and thought-provoking Viewpoints on important topics, discussing new ideas and areas of controversy.

As the theme issue is timed with the American Academy of Neurology meeting, we are most interested in late-breaking clinical trials, therapeutic trials in particular. We encourage authors to contact us as early as possible to expedite the manuscript submission and review process.

We encourage neurologists, neuroscientists, and other authors to submit manuscripts for this theme issue on neurology. Manuscripts received before January 1, 2014, will have the best opportunity to be considered for inclusion in the issue. Every effort will be made to consider and review exciting, new randomized clinical trials that are submitted after this date. Please contact us with questions about this theme issue. Authors should consult the JAMA Instructions for Authors3 for guidelines on manuscript submission and preparation. Articles submitted to JAMA but not determined to have sufficiently high priority for JAMA publication may be referred to another journal in The JAMA Network.

We look forward to receiving your most important and significant new basic and clinical neuroscientific research for the JAMA theme issue on neurology.

REFERENCES