



Thomas C. Meyer, MD

Editorial

More dendrimers, synthetic peptides, biomimetic cells, and biomems

Thomas C. Meyer, MD, Medical Editor, Wisconsin Medical Journal

In the last issue of the *Journal*, we were introduced to the wondrous world of Nanotechnology by Drs Powell and Kanarek. In this issue they are kind enough to review and remind us of the terminology before listing some of the common “nanomaterial” products on the market—paints, sunscreens, textiles, and “nanobiologicals” being produced for medical applications (p 18). All very interesting, but then they bring us back to earth with their outlines of how little is known about the toxicology, and workplace and public exposures to these materials, as well as the ecotoxicological effects of these substances that seem to possess similar dimensions and experimental effects as asbestos. Perhaps the most sobering observation is that researchers are not very sure they even have the right tools to study these effects appropriately despite the fact that there are an estimated 1600+ nanotechnology companies operating in the country.

Since we did not have any peer-reviewed submissions on our theme of Food Safety, the rest of the issue is filled with various articles from our files. They cover a variety of topics, and we think they are quite worthwhile.

Once again we are grateful to Drs Kochar and Chawla for providing a thoughtful update in clinical pharmacology and therapeutics (p 24). They cover 3 new drugs in infec-

tious diseases, 1 each in endocrine, respiratory, excretory systems and 2 in geriatric medicine, along with a brief discussion of Flumist.

Dr Partington and her colleagues’ screening survey aimed at identifying the number of children in the Greater Milwaukee Area who have special health care needs (p 30) shows that there is, indeed, a significant problem in the city with the prevalence almost twice that of the surrounding Milwaukee counties.

Doctor Sanders (p 36) report of the impact of refugees from more than 25 countries coming in to Wisconsin over the past 25 years makes for startling reading—particularly the effects in sparsely populated counties. The authors’ description of the dramatic shift in Barron County’s demography with the influx of primary and secondary Somali refugees in 2004 makes for rumination concerning “readiness education” of the local population and health professionals when resettlement of refugees who may or may not have been subjected to torture is being contemplated.

The report of the Society’s second Citizens Congress aimed at developing improved communication and health care (Jensen et al, p 41) outlines the accomplishments to date and proposed steps designed to develop a firm and unified approach to enlisting large numbers of the public and physicians into

a partnership for improved care. If, after reading the article, you would like more information, Doctor Jensen invites you to contact him at nmj@medicine.wisc.edu.

We salute the Medical College of Wisconsin and Children’s Hospital for initiating the Wisconsin Pediatric Cardiac Registry (Hanson-Morris et al, p 45) and hope that it receives appropriate reports so that it can become a useful resource, albeit in a small state.

Dr Guttormsen and his colleagues provide an interesting account of a patient with Transient Left Ventricular Ballooning and a helpful review of the literature (p 49). It is well worth the reading, if only to consider this diagnosis in every case of Acute Coronary Syndrome that presents—the similarities are legion.

The case report of a signet-ring carcinoma of the bladder (Iqbal et al, p 55) is of interest, primarily because the diagnosis was made at autopsy—a rare occurrence in this day of high-tech investigations. The summary of the causes of retroperitoneal fibrosis (Table 1, p 58) is most helpful.

Finally, there is the ever-popular and interesting poster abstracts from the Wisconsin chapter of the ACP (p 59). Another opportunity to mutter “never heard of it” and “hen’s teeth.” Our thanks to Doctor Kutty who edited the abstracts.

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