Translational Science in the QJM

We wish to establish within the QJM a reputation for publishing quality research in Translational Science. Bench based science with a strong translational medicine message will have a specialized section within future issues of the Journal. Robert Mitchell of the University of Louisville will be the designated Associate Editor responsible for developing Translational Science within the Journal. To that end we invite submissions under the Translational Science category.

Why should patients with terminal cancer die in pain?

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that annually 5.5 million people with terminal cancer will die in moderate to severe pain. In his review article, Tony O’Brien asks ‘why is this so?’ With the development globally of palliative medicine, with national and international guidelines—how has this come to pass? This article highlights the varied and often times inadequate use of opioids worldwide. He argues for the more readily availability of opioids—where these drugs are readily accessible to selected patients for legitimate clinical purposes. Having drugs that are notionally available but totally inaccessible because of excessively restrictive and burdensome bureaucracies or economic barriers is, at best, misleading.

Atypical stroke syndromes—how to recognize and how to treat

This journal has played a pivotal role in highlighting the significant emotional and financial burden faced by stroke patients and their families and the importance of multidisciplinary expertise in the management of these patients. As part of our continuing medical educational remit we publish an authoritative review by Balami and colleagues on rarer manifestations of stroke syndrome. ‘Ondine’s Curse’ derives from the legend of Ondine, a water fairy, who, on discovering her mortal lover was unfaithful, placed a curse on him that should he fall asleep, he would forget to breathe. Ondine’s Syndrome in modern medicine refers to a rare primary alveolar hypoventilation defect either congenital or acquired brain stem injury. This article provides a welcome review of ‘Ondine’s Syndrome’ and other rarer atypical stroke syndromes for the practicing clinician.

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References