



## Myasthenia Gravis

I am contacting you to suggest a story regarding Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month in June. Myasthenia gravis (MG) is an under-diagnosed and relatively unknown autoimmune neuromuscular disease. It affects people of every age, race, and gender and can cause slurred speech, double vision, drooping eyelids, weakness in the arms and legs, and difficulty breathing, chewing, and swallowing.

The lack of media coverage and public knowledge of this disease permits the suffering of thousands of people each year. A person may endure the symptoms of MG for much of his or her life without answers.

Additionally, our foundation receives heartbreaking calls each year from patients who are left untreated in emergency rooms, patients who are mistaken for being intoxicated, and patients who are ridiculed for taking handicapped spaces because their symptoms are often "invisible" to the average person. Please consider spotlighting this disease in June of this year in coordination with Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month.

—Janet M. Golden  
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**THE EDITOR RESPONDS:** Thank you for your suggestion. Please see "Trials and Tribulations" (page 32) and look for a story on MG in May/June 2009.

## Multiple Sclerosis

My name is Angela and I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) two years ago. I had my first attack three

days after being told that I might have this serious chronic disease.

In the course of these past two years, I have had to change medications three times and have experienced three serious relapses. I have been able to learn a lot about MS by reading *Neurology Now* and find the articles about MS very interesting.

Instead of getting down on myself and letting fear of the unknown take over, I created a project that I called Flowers4MS. It allows me to raise awareness and funds for MS research. The project keeps me going and makes me feel grateful for each and every day. I share my story on the Web site at [flowers4MS.com](http://flowers4MS.com). Thank you for your informative coverage of such a debilitating disease.

—Angela Cleary  
Help support research  
to find a cure for MS!  
[Flowers4MS.com](http://Flowers4MS.com)

## Even Cowboys Get Migraines

There is a glaring error in the Sept/Oct 2008 story, "Even Cowboys Get Migraines." The story says that World War II ended with an armistice: "This is a 'common pattern,' Dr. Cutrer observes, referring to the reports of 'many soldiers at the end of WWII having a migraine the day after the armistice was signed!'" However,

it was actually World War I that ended with the armistice. I'm not sure if this is a typo or a historical inaccuracy.

Thank you for your very informative magazine; we've enjoyed it for years.

—Ed Snow

**THE EDITOR RESPONDS:** That's an excellent question. Although "Armistice Day" officially refers to the end of WWI, as you point out, we used the term "armistice" informally here, to refer to the end of

fighting in WWII.

## Editor's Letter

I agree with your concern on p. 7 of the Sept./Oct. issue of *Neurology Now*, but I also think you are preaching to the congregation.

It's the professionals staffing emergency departments (ED) who need to be educated. Some ED doctors make light of TIAs—you are made to feel it was a waste of time coming. Three times I took my sister to the ED over the course of a year. Once she was told to come back if it happened again. Once she was told don't come to the ER because nothing could be done.

Then when she had the stroke and was brought to the ED by ambulance (and we all are told you get quick attention if you come by ambulance), she was put in a wheelchair and dumped in the waiting room. I was the one who got hold of the nurse to tell her my sister's speech was getting worse.

—Marilyn Erickson

## Sharing Stories

I started receiving *Neurology Now* about three years ago, shortly after my father was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease). I read my first copy in the neurology department of the Mayo Clinic in Roches-