

From the Editor's Desk

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In one of our non-themed issues, this quarter we again have a diverse group of articles that should provide something of interest to our varied readership. We begin with an elegant and interesting basic science article: Dr. Cook, an Ochsner scientist, provides an introduction to G Protein-coupled receptors. Knowledge of this type of cell receptor will guide future drug development.

Less invasive techniques are increasingly being developed, and it is important that we periodically review our experience to evaluate their role in our practices. As part of this process, Dr. Bonilla and former colleagues from the Ochsner and other gynecology departments report their 5-year experience with laparoscopic hysterectomy. Next, two members of the Ochsner Ophthalmology Department (Drs. Hesse and Groetsch), partnering with endocrinologist Dr. Burshell, discuss pseudoxanthoma elasticum in an unusual family of patients.

Statin drugs are commonly prescribed, and many of us take these medications. Myopathy is a serious potential side effect associated with them, and Dr. Deichmann and colleagues review some of the research into possible mechanisms of this problem.

Then, we have a series of case reports and brief reviews on topics that include endocarditis, femoral fractures associated with alendronate therapy, heart problems after percutaneous closure of an atrial septal defect, and influenza in late pregnancy.

As physicians, we deal with patients in numerous ways. Communication with our patients is key to

sharing information and obtaining optimal results. Dr. Ha, a frequent contributor to the *Journal*, and a colleague from Australia review this important topic. We can all improve our patient interactions by incorporating the principles discussed in this informative article.

The next article is a little unusual and merits some explanation. It is not a scientific paper but rather provides insight into the amazing life form on which we work. It was written by one of our founders—our institution's namesake, the late Dr. Alton Ochsner—in the 60s. It was submitted to the *Journal* by his son and Ochsner emeritus cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr. John Ochsner. John describes how, as a young surgeon, he observed his father working on a paper. John asked his father where he was going to submit it; the elder Dr. Ochsner replied that the paper contained some of his thoughts on the human body and that he was writing it for John's consideration. Recently while sorting through some old papers (something we all should do frequently), John came across the manuscript and thought our readers might enjoy it. It describes many of the astounding components and wonders of human physiology: things we first encountered in medical school and are reminded of in our daily work.

Finally, we have included a review of a specialty text edited by an Ochsner surgeon.

On behalf of the editorial board, I would like to thank our contributors for their efforts and hope our readers continue to find useful and interesting information in the *Journal*.