



## ■ INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to share the peer-reviewed highlights of the 67th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurology, held in Washington, DC, USA, from April 18 to 25, 2015.

*MD Conference Express*<sup>®</sup> provides timely, peer-reviewed highlights of high-impact presentations from the live conference, long before they are published in the academic literature, and is a trusted education resource. The articles selected for this issue underwent a rigorous 5-step peer-review process to ensure their accuracy and provide a reliable interim information source prior to the research being vetted by the standard journal peer-review process.

The articles in this issue of *MD Conference Express* represent the most compelling topics of relevance to a broad array of practitioners and have the potential to influence clinical practice.

Among the clinical trial highlights are encouraging results in multiple sclerosis (MS). Early vs delayed treatment with IFN- $\beta$ 1a prolonged the time to clinically definite MS over the 5-year follow-up in REFLEXION, the open-label extension of the REFLEX trial. The TRANSFORMS extension trial showed that MRI activity and relapses in year 1 predicted clinical outcomes and that switching from IFN- $\beta$ 1a to fingolimod after 1 year reduced MRI activity and relapses. In patients with relapsing MS, teriflunomide reduced the rate of relapse in the TEMSO and TOWER trials.

The Presidential Lecture is summarized in a feature article and reviews key challenges facing the field of neurology and some of the responses being undertaken by the AAN. The selected update articles include a review of strategies to address neurologic emergencies.

We hope that you find the articles and practical perspectives that are contained in the pages of this issue of *MD Conference Express* helpful in integrating this new information into your clinical practice. For more information, please visit [www.mdce.sagepub.com](http://www.mdce.sagepub.com).

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