Neuroepidemiology Special Issue: Population-Based Epidemiological Studies of Neurological Disorders

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Neurological disorders are becoming more prevalent as the world's population ages and their burden is expected to increase globally. These conditions can often be subtle in terms of their clinical manifestation and in epidemiological studies the case ascertainment of neurological conditions can be challenging. In particular, these challenges include rare conditions, variable diagnostic criteria that may also need sophisticated technology, and different stages of the disease. High-quality prevalence and incidence studies of neurological conditions that follow a systematic approach are essential for estimating the burden of disease globally, for comparison of estimates between various countries and populations, for priority setting, resource allocation and planning public health approaches. Descriptive epidemiological studies documenting the incidence, prevalence, mortality and economic burden of neurological diseases provide essential information for patients, health care providers and policymakers.

Recently, the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors Study 2016 Neurology Collaborative Group reported that over the last 3 decades the burden of neurological disorders has increased substantially [1]. In addition, neurological disorders are the leading cause group of disability and the second leading cause group of mortality worldwide, with stroke being the largest contributor to this burden globally. They also note that low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) bear the majority of

the burden of neurological disorders. There are large geographical differences when all neurological disorders are combined and there is still a lack of evidence from LMICs.

When it was announced that there would be a special issue of *Neuroepidemiology* devoted to this topic, we received a large volume of high-quality abstracts. Rather than turn down excellent work, it was decided to include as many abstracts as possible in this *Neuroepidemiology* special issue on population-based studies. The special issue includes studies of prevalence, incidence and severity and covers a variety of common neurological disorders. In addition, it features studies from LMICS and methodological reports that investigate rarer neurological disorders.

I would like to thank all of the anonymous reviewers for their critical evaluation of the manuscripts as well as all of the authors for their contributions, and hope that readers will find these reports as interesting and informative as I have found.

Reference

- 1 GBD 2016 Neurology Collaborators. Global, regional, and national burden of neurological disorders, 1990–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016. *Lancet Neurol*. 2019 May;18(5):459–80.