Rishi Agrawal, MD, MPH, our Guest Editor, has coordinated a terrific issue of *Pediatric Annals*, with a group of outstanding articles devoted to the child with complex medical needs.

The first four articles in the issue deal with the scientific and medical aspects of providing care to this patient population. Julie Hauer (see page 198) systematically clarifies the mechanisms that cause pain in neurologically impaired children, highlights the recognition of pain in non-verbal patients and provides specific actions that clinicians can take to relieve pain in these patients. I’ve never seen such a complete review of this interesting topic. Shubhra Mukherjee and colleagues (see page 206) review the various skin issues that can develop in these patients, including a wealth of information dealing with decubitus ulcers (pressure sores).

Panitch and Healy (see page 216) very clearly review the pulmonary complications of pediatric neurological disease; in doing so, they really outline the pathophysiology of the parenchymal and ventilatory complications in an outstanding manner, with specific recommendations for evaluation and treatment. Similarly, Srivastava and colleagues (see page 225) review the issues of dysphagia and gastroesophageal reflux disease in this population in a clear and practical manner.

Mark Rosenberg writes about “Physician Payment in a Medical Home” (see page 235), an exceptionally important real-world issue. Mr. Rosenberg goes through billing strategies in great detail, with many tips regarding coding, which should benefit most of you who read this journal. A somewhat complementary article is entitled “State and Federal Benefits for Children with Special Health Care Needs,” by Goldstein, Altman, and Zimmerman (see page 240). They detail the various governmental programs, helping us...
to make sense of the existing possibilities that may assist our patients. They don’t, however, address the fact that because of the current economic problems in individual states and in Washington, many programs have been cut or have been underfunded.

Finally, a truly remarkable piece of writing here is entitled “Take the Little Steps: Providing Complex Care,” by Anne Fischer Juhlmann, RN, BSN (see page 248). The author is a pediatric nurse and educator of pediatric residents, as well as a mother to children with complex medical needs. She poignantly highlights the need to involve families in their children’s care and the need for the family to build a team of providers and to have a committed primary coordinating physician involved.

Stamps chosen to accompany this issue of Pediatric Annals include the pink 1981 stamp from Kuwait (see page 184) and the blue 1981 one from the Philippines (see page 184), both issued for the International Year of Disabled Persons and depicting youngsters in wheelchairs. The blue stamp from India was also issued in 1981 and shows a child with crutches and at least one leg prosthesis. The 2009 stamp from Barbados shows a blind child reading braille, issued to celebrate the 200th birthday of Louis Braille.

doi: 10.3928/00904481-20100318-11