Foreword



Antonio Ciacciarelli
Antonio Ciacciarelli is a vascular neurologist at the Stroke Unit of the Policlinico Umberto I University Hospital in Rome, Italy. He graduated in Medicine and Surgery from Sapienza University of Rome and completed his neurology residency at the University of Messina, Messina, Italy. He holds a PhD in Arterial Hypertension and Vascular Biology from Sapienza University, and a Master's degree in Stroke Medicine from University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland. His clinical and research work has focused on vascular neurology and has been actively involved in the activities of the European Stroke Organisation (ESO) and the Italian Stroke Association (ISA-AII). He is currently part of the ESO Emerging Leaders Programme and coordinates the young group of the ISA-AII. His research focuses on ischemic stroke, particularly the acute phase, prognostic factors, perfusion and metabolic patterns, and reperfusion injury.

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2026 issue of *touchREVIEWS in Neurology*, which brings together a diverse collection of reviews, expert perspectives and a clinical case report reflecting continued advances in neurological research and clinical practice. From developments in acute stroke management and targeted therapies to emerging insights into neurodegenerative and neuroimmune conditions, this issue highlights the evolving approaches to diagnosis and treatment across the specialty.

This issue opens with Federica Rizzo, Ettore Nicolini and Antonio Ciacciarelli's editorial on the 2026 European Stroke Organisation Conference, summarizing key findings in acute stroke treatment, neuroprotection and secondary prevention. The studies presented reflect ongoing efforts to expand treatment eligibility and refine patient selection for endovascular interventions. Complementing this, Abdelmageet Hassan and Sumanjit Gill review the evidence supporting mechanical thrombectomy, tracing its development into an established treatment for large-vessel occlusion and exploring unresolved questions surrounding medium and distal vessel occlusions.

In Alzheimer's disease, Khaled A Abdel-Sater examines the bidirectional relationship between sleep disturbances and neurodegeneration, highlighting the roles of impaired glymphatic clearance, amyloid-beta and tau accumulation and neuroinflammation. The review considers the potential of sleep disturbances as early indicators of disease and the opportunities for sleep-focused interventions in reducing the risk of cognitive decline.

Headache disorders feature prominently in this issue. Ioana Medrea explores the evolving understanding of calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) in migraine pathophysiology, from its discovery to the development of targeted therapies, including gepants and monoclonal antibodies. Building on this, Lily Anastasi et al. review current approaches to pediatric migraine prevention, examining the emerging evidence for CGRP-targeted treatments and the challenges of translating advances in adult migraine care to younger populations.

Further highlighting the complexity of headache presentations, Henry Riyanto Sofyan et al. present a case report of adolescent migraine associated with Alice in Wonderland syndrome. The report illustrates the diagnostic challenges posed by overlapping perceptual, neurological and psychiatric symptoms, emphasizing the importance of multidisciplinary assessment and management.

In neuroimmunology, Norio Chihara discusses autoimmune psychosis as an increasingly recognized presentation of autoimmune encephalitis, highlighting the importance of distinguishing immune-mediated disease from primary psychiatric disorders to enable timely diagnosis and treatment. Meanwhile, Natalie Hissong et al. examine the role of ozanimod in relapsing multiple sclerosis, reviewing its efficacy, safety and tolerability alongside practical considerations for its use within an expanding disease-modifying treatment landscape.

Advances in neuromuscular disease are explored by Chen Chen et al., who review two decades of clinical trials in spinal muscular atrophy. The authors trace the transformation of its treatment landscape through the introduction of disease-modifying therapies, while examining emerging therapeutic approaches and ongoing questions surrounding treatment selection, sequencing and combination strategies.

On behalf of the editorial team, I extend our sincere thanks to the authors, peer reviewers and wider scientific community for their valuable contributions. We hope this issue provides meaningful insights into the latest developments in neurology and supports continued progress in clinical research and patient care. ❑