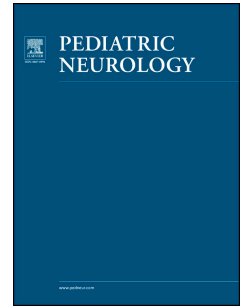


# Accepted Manuscript



Pediatric Neurology Trainee Publication Award for 2015

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### Editorial

Please join the Journal's associate editors in congratulating Dr. Michael S. Oldham from Kosair Children's Hospital at the University of Louisville, the recipient of this year's Pediatric Neurology Trainee Publication Award. His article<sup>1</sup> was selected from all eligible articles published in 2015 by North American child neurology and neurosurgery residents and fellows. We hope that this award, which recognizes an outstanding scholarly publication by an individual in training, will encourage and motivate other residents and fellows who aspire to make scholarly contributions to clinical pediatric neuroscience.

In their paper, Oldham and his colleagues report on the financial burden of treatment-resistant epilepsy. They achieved their goal by retrospectively comparing the economic toll of the condition in a cohort of patients who underwent epilepsy surgery *vs.* a similar cohort of patients who did not. Their results are unambiguous: patients who underwent surgery and remained seizure-free at 1- and 2-year follow-up visits, incurred significantly lower costs than those who received medical management alone. In addition, the cohort who underwent surgery had significantly fewer seizures as compared with the medical group at a 1-year follow-up visit. Some might say that the expense of the surgery eclipses any cost-saving measures. Nothing could be further from the truth, because the most significant economic impact of epilepsy is not the direct cost of a surgical procedure. Instead, the lion's share of the financial toll of the disease is born by variable indirect costs – lost wages, increased use of social services, psychological impact of the disease, and more. Dr. Oldham's paper represents the kind of data that are sorely needed in medicine. His findings are not important because they may lead to cost-saving measures. His findings are important because they are stepping stones towards making the

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