FROM THE EDITOR

Advances in General Biofeedback
Donald Moss, PhD

The cover of this issue shows a human face and reflects the topic of our first feature article: using electromyographic biofeedback as a research tool to study facial pain.

Professional Issues
Sebastian Striefel opens this issue with guidelines for applying basic ethical principles to the treatment of pain and suffering. He includes a discussion of the ethical standards involved whenever a practitioner offers an experimental treatment to a patient. The fields of biofeedback and neurofeedback are wonderfully innovative fields, in which new treatment protocols emerge regularly. However, it often takes years for research to catch up with treatment innovation, and some treatments are not empirically validated for an extended period, even after they enter into wider use.

Next, Celeste De Bease provides a discussion of the current requirements for certification from the Biofeedback Certification Institute of America, including the option of distance mentoring, which makes certification a practical option for individuals in remote settings.

Special Topics Articles
The Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback president Alan Glaros offers an article describing the use of surface electromyography (SEMG) as an experimental tool. Dr. Glaros has applied SEMG to temporomandibular disorder (TMD) and facial pain. His research has supported a model for understanding TMD, which emphasizes tooth contact and clenching.

Erik Peper and colleagues have contributed a discussion of the blood volume pulse (BVP) sensor, which is widely used in biofeedback to measure heart rate and heart rate variability. The article reminds the reader that BVP is a useful modality in its own right, with applications including migraine treatment and the monitoring of human sexual arousal.

Student Paper
The future of biofeedback rests on the recruitment of new generations of students to push forward the frontiers in biofeedback practice and psychophysiological principles. In this issue, we include an article by high school student Michael Berger, who was selected as a grand prize winner in the New York City Science and Engineering Fair for his research on biofeedback. Berger used inexpensive biofeedback devices and readily available self-regulation and relaxation strategies and developed a treatment regimen for an adolescent male with autism spectrum disorder. His regimen produced a significant improvement in the young man’s condition.

Book Reviews
Two books are reviewed in this issue, the work by Erik Peper and Katherine Gibney, Muscle Biofeedback at the Computer, and Kirtley Thornton’s No Child Left Behind Goals (and More) Are Obtainable With the Neurocognitive Approach.