“There is a harmony in autumn, and a luster in its sky, which through the summer is not heard or seen, as if it could not be, as if it had not been!”

— Percy Bysshe Shelley

“A man says a lot of things in summer he doesn’t mean in winter.”

— Patricia Briggs, Dragon Blood

This summer was a hot one. It was hot in temperature and hot in tempers. We have seen unrest in many areas of the country and the world. In Ferguson, a city where a 17 year old was gunned down and racial tensions continue. In West Africa, where Ebola re-emerged and lingers on. In Syria and Iraq where ISIS is gaining ground and journalists are being killed. This summer we read about the death of Robin Williams, highlighting the dual-diagnosis of chronic disease and depression. In El Paso, we have struggled in the immigration debate first hand as an influx of Central and South American refugees arrived at our borders. Rain has brought West Nile and St. Louis Encephalitis to our city.

Despite these conflicts and concerns rampant during the summer of 2014, there were also some bright spots: the ALS “ice bucket challenge” brought recognition to an important neurological disease nationally and internationally. Locally, the Chihuahuas had a fantastic season and we saw renewed growth in Downtown El Paso.

With the fall and the academic year upon us once again, we hope to witness some respite from both the environmental and political climates of our summer. Indoor activities with family and friends will begin to prevail and the upcoming holidays may encourage many to support a view of peace and friendship in place of violence and anger.

In our current issue, we will highlight 10 more abstracts that were presented at the Texas Tech Research Colloquium in May of 2014. This will be the second of 4 installments. We also have several other interesting articles, ranging from topics on intestinal malrotation and Polycystic Kidney Disease to shoulder arthroplasty and legal issues in medicine.

I invite you to sit back in a comfortable area, grab a cool drink, take a break from all the problems in the news today. Read on and relax...