But Sometimes It Is a Zebra!

David E. Mandelbaum, MD, PhD

“When you hear the pounding of hooves, don’t look for zebras.”

We all heard this in medical school and, given that common things occur commonly, it is, generally, excellent advice. But even in little Rhode Island, conditions with an annual incidence of one in 100,000 will occur ten times a year. The Children’s Neurodevelopment Center at Hasbro Children’s Hospital is a multidisciplinary center, which includes the subspecialties of: child neurology, developmental-behavioral pediatrics, genetics, metabolic disorders, neuro-rehabilitation, newborn screening, orthopedics, psychology, sleep medicine, urology. The center provides care for children with relatively common disorders, such as ADHD, sleep disorders, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism, developmental disabilities, and also offers the expertise to track down zebras.

This issue is devoted to the zebras, which, while rare, highlight the advances being made in our understanding of normal physiology and the pathophysiology of disease.

David E. Mandelbaum, MD, PhD is Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Director of Child Neurology and The Children’s Neurodevelopment Center, Hasbro Children’s Hospital.

Disclosure of Financial Interests

The author and/or spouse/significant other has no financial interests to disclose.

Correspondence

David E. Mandelbaum, MD, PhD
phone: (401) 444-4345
e-mail: david_mandelbaum@brown.edu