

Editorial



Dear Readers

Never a dull moment on Planet Earth! Sensational startling change is the flavour of the day. Striking changes have occurred in the history of sport, fuel production, Nobel prize winners, music, cyberspace, and of course Politics since the last issue. However workers in the archipelago of the NHS are inured to relentless change. The dynamic rate of transformation in the NHS is impossible to trump by any other organisation. The latest policies from the Department of Health BCT, STP, CQIN, GIRFT and POLV (purposely abbreviated) are sufficient to increase the prescriptions of Prozac.

However not all is gloom and doom. I am pleased that the number of submissions to the Journal has increased. This is reflected in the contents. The article on Empathy highlights an important skill. The ethical debate regarding Telephone Clinic is pertinent as clinicians and managers try to cope with the timely patient reviews. There is a summary on the future of Ophthalmology within the Better Care Together scheme. The radiology report is topical as obesity is on the DoH radar. The brilliant lecture of Sir Barry Jackson is also included for those who missed it. However the excellent delivery and inimitable style can not be included. My hope is that more case reports will be submitted and published in this journal – particularly as the high impact Journals do not usually accept case reports.

I am in the process of developing the journal further so that the Journal can generate its own impact factor. This is dependent on a peer review process, which is the key to raising the Journal's profile. Having recently attended a course on medical publishing I find myself rather enlightened and relatively confident in this field. I have discussed with the Editorial Board and plan to produce an online version soon. In line with these ideas some amendments to the Instructions to Authors have been undertaken.

There have been changes in the office too. Mrs T. Cuffin-Roberts is the new Editorial assistant. Tracey has vast experience and knowledge of Library Services and publishing. She has kindly offered editorial assistance to potential authors with all aspects of their articles. An offer too good to miss, in my opinion. Please do consider contributing to the Journal and encourage your students and trainees too. Recommended reading for authors is a book by Tim Albert, *Write Effectively: a quick course for busy health workers*. Dr A Severn (the previous Editor), Tracey and myself plan to host a workshop on preparing a paper soon.

To get away from work is much easier now with the new motorway junction being opened. The new Booker Prize winner *Sellout* waits, as does the new series *The Crown* on Netflix.

Time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year too. Enjoy and please feedback on this issue. With all good wishes for Planet Earth and its inhabitants.

THANKS for reading

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shadaba Ahmed".

Shadaba Ahmed
Editor