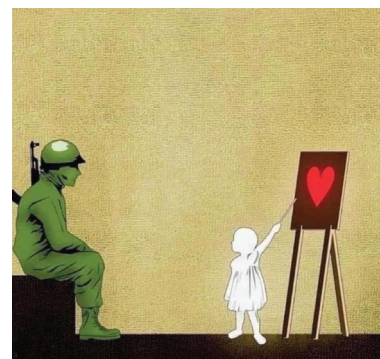


# Editorial



Courtesy Milu Raud

Dear Reader

From pandemic to pandemonium, from misery to missiles, from restrictions to regiments! What a world we live in. Our collective global hopes for respite from the tribulations of CV19 are put in perspective for now. The incessant news about the collateral war damage to civilian lives and facilities is heart breaking. The plight of the plundered versus the might and indiscriminate advances of the conqueror is heart breaking. The aggressor chooses to be numb to human suffering, as it continues to claim devastated, smoldering, ruined land. Europe and UK will feel and bear the brunt of this human crisis. The expected key demands will be on healthcare and housing for refugees. There are murmurs that further waves of CV19 could surface. Ukraine had already reported a recent outbreak of polio.

As Lancaster is a City of Sanctuary, there is anticipation that refugees will arrive here soon. Many good citizens have already offered shelter for the refugees in their homes.

WHO Europe has set out three priorities: deliver medical supplies to Ukraine, equip Ukraine's neighboring countries with healthcare supplies and lastly build resources for urgent management of trauma and injury in border areas. In the UK droves of Russian doctors and other healthcare workers have signed an open letter demanding urgent cessation of hostilities and a peaceful resolution for the future. Interestingly, the *BMJ* will continue to engage with Russian academic activities. Arguably some form of communication is better than complete condemnation and isolation of the aggressor.

Back to our local world. Here, life is limping slowly back to normal. The DoH update is for healthcare workers, patients and visitors to continue to wear a mask in healthcare premises. If a staff member tests positive for CV19, they have to be off work till two negative lateral flow tests, 24 hours apart are recorded. However, the lateral flow tests have to be after five days of initially testing positive.

In England a new platform "*my planned care*" has been set up, for the mere 6 million patients on the waiting list for any procedure. This platform should provide patients with information about average waiting times in their local hospitals.

The debate on the National plan for "living with CV19" rages on. The main concern being the rapid disbanding of essential CV19 services might prove to be a hasty decision.

The Royal College of Surgeons of England have launched a new module to assist with the surgical training deficit created by CV19. It is entitled "The Future of Surgery e-learning – the Digital Era". It includes sections on genomics and robotics amongst others. 360 degree cameras in theatres for an immersive experience for the trainees are also under consideration.

Next up, MBMJ news. Most importantly the Pubmed Central application is still under review. Hopefully in the summer issue I will be able to share good news! Welcome to Emma Higginson as MBMJ patient representative and to Zuzanna Nowinka, an extremely talented medical student and artist, to the student section. The MBMJ website has recently been updated and user-friendly sections created. Please do visit and submit via this portal. The MBMJ continues to be peer reviewed. The quantity and quality of submissions has definitely improved.

The articles in this Spring issue will, as always captivate the reader. Case reports, fast bleeped series updates, book reviews, community voluntary sector contributions and Dr Lambert's riveting article on medical education, workforce and bureaucracy interactions are all included. This issue, like the last is fully biodegradable, recyclable and dyslexia friendly font.

Jimi Hendrix wrote "when the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace". Soothing thought! Hopefully my next editorial will share global and local good tidings

THANKS for reading,

Shadaba Ahmed, Editor

## THE LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE MEDICAL BOOK CLUB PRIZE FOR BEST PAPER

The Book Club, as part of its 200th anniversary celebrations, is reinstating an annual prize for the best paper. In a break from tradition, this will be for the best paper published in the MBMJ during a calendar year. The winning authors will receive a trophy and a cash prize. All papers published in the journal will automatically be entered. The judging panel will consist of the Book Club President, Secretary, Archivist together with the editor of the journal. Judging of the previous year's papers will take place early the following year.