



# Editorial

Dear Reader

As 2023 perceptively melts into the annals of human history, I am reminded of the tender yet poignant poem “one” by Petur Gunnarsson; an Icelandic poet.

“on earth’s part  
all days start beautifully  
patiently it revolves and revolves  
with its trees  
and oceans and lakes  
deserts and volcanoes  
the two of us and the rest of you  
and all the animals”

Keeping to the subject of poetic exposition, perhaps this is as good a juncture as any to highlight the difference between a *journal* and a *magazine*. Journal and magazine are not truly synonyms. Sadly, not all magazines can be classified as journals, as most of us bibliophiles or not are aware.

Broadly **journals** are used to report original research as well as to convey information about the recent developments in a specific study area. Articles include an abstract and contain references. The articles are supported by evidence and provide a systematic/factual account on a specific topic. The journal cover is simple and related to the content. There is a volume, issue number and name of the affiliated Institution. Journals are intended for an academic readership

**Magazines** tend to enlighten and amuse the reader, while providing a broad review on a topic of current interest. Magazines can also be periodical publications. The authors can be staff or freelancers. The articles are usually researched, information is collected from different sources and compiled into stories and reports. There is no definite format followed by the authors to write magazine articles. Except for the cover story and editorial, articles on almost any topic are included.

As Editor my strategy for the MBMJ content is to avoid politics and controversy. Hence the BMA members doctor strikes, the heart-breaking violence in the Middle East, the most prolific child serial-killer in modern British history, the state of the NHS waiting lists and similar will not be commented on. But I share the concerns of most of my colleagues regarding the ever-increasing new NHS positions created for doctors and nurses. The majority of medics understand that delivery of health care services in the community and hospitals has to be reviewed. There is acknowledgement regarding unsustainable hotspots; such as the frailty/elderly services, the infirm requiring urgent care for example, but should this not be an impetus to review recruitment and retention policies? The BMA would like PA to be renamed Physician Assistant rather than Associate. The terminology for doctors has changed beyond recognition. The title SHO has been let go, the term registrar has been retracted, senior registrar is ST3. Consider the plight of the patients having to grapple with FY, CT, ST, CT3, HST, GPST, AP, NA, SFA, ANP, and many more. There are numerous publications from RCSE and BMA on exactly this topic. Stricter regulations with competency curriculum have been highlighted following the recent report of misdiagnosis and death of a patient.<sup>1</sup> The saying “if you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem” has been the driver to highlighting this issue. Perhaps someone reading this Editorial would like to survey patient opinion and understanding (or lack of) of these titles and if it impacted their encounter? For the NHS to improve and flourish is the universal desire.

This MBMJ issue is the last for 2023; hence all articles published will automatically be considered for the Lancaster and Morecambe Medical Book Club Prize 2023. This issue contains articles on CV-19 especially as long Covid is an area of interest; an invaluable article on infection prevention; the fast bleeped series is devoted to traumatic cardiac arrest; a comparative study on open versus laparoscopic cholecystectomy within the Trust; the role of the voluntary sector and its contribution to health outcomes and two articles on the NHS economy. The book review should prompt a read of “The fantastic laboratory of Dr Weigl” by Arthur Allen. The journal as always seeks peer reviewers, case reports, letters to Editor along with your submissions. I am overawed and grateful to the extremely talented Daniel Myers for the cover design and illustrations embedded within the issue. The Editorial Board is unaltered. Articles published are strictly in chronological order of completion. Every article requires peer review, amendments and queries after proof reading and then a final review. Submissions are then considered ready for publication.

The MBMJ team and I wish you the best for the festive seasons and look forward to reconnecting in the new year. My final thoughts to share are those of the Dalai Lama “we have to learn to live in harmony and peace with each other and with nature. That is not just a dream, but a necessity”.

THANKS for reading,

Shadaba Ahmed, Editor

## Reference

1. Ireland B. Can you sign this? *The Doctor*. 2023;59:pp4-9. Available from: <https://www.bma.org.uk/news-and-opinion/can-you-sign-this> (accessed on 24 October 2023).