

Editorial



Dear Reader

This is it for 2019! Time flies and merges with history leaving us with all kinds of memories. 2019 marked many important anniversaries such as the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing and 100 years since the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, the first observed Armistice Day and the election of the first female MP in the House of Commons, Lady Nancy Astor.

The journal itself is approaching an important anniversary as in January 2020 it will be 30 years old! This impressive milestone of course would not have been reached if it wasn't for the enthusiasm and dedication of those on the editorial board and various authors and contributors over the years. Thankfully our editorial board remains stable and engaged but we are still looking for a student representative to join us and help encourage engagement among their peers. After all one of the journal's founding aims was to aid medical education!

With a view to the future we have big plans for the journal, primarily to improve its metrics. We can do this by taking steps to make what we publish discoverable to a wider audience, hopefully helping the journal achieve an impact factor.

The first major step is nearly complete. Thanks to the trust's library service, with technical help from Tim Jacobs, the e-resources librarian for the Christie NHS Foundation Trust, the *MBMJ* now has its own dedicated site; at www.mbmj.co.uk. This was set up using Open Journal Systems; an open source journal management system developed by the Public Knowledge Project. The site still needs plenty of work, but the library team is currently focused on uploading back issues, which Google Scholar is already picking up and indexing. Before long you will be able to discover older articles all the way back to 1990, when the publication was called the Lancaster and Westmorland Journal, which may bring back some memories and reunite some readers with their work!

The next step is to begin assigning Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to each article providing them with persistent identifiers, which standard Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) do not. These aid the discoverability of research, including output from the *MBMJ*, by interlinking content from references and allowing authors to easily connect their publications to personal persistent digital identifiers such as those issued by ORCID.

In this issue we have another interesting mix of articles. Included is an ethical debate about the biological origin of surgical graft materials and how this could impact patient decision-making, increasing efficiency in the Pathology Department in a time of financial constraint and an essay on acute respiratory distress syndrome. Finally, we have republished the obituary of Justin Francis Kelly, with some additional words from former colleagues. It covers the distinguished career of the former surgeon, who went on to become the medical director of the Lancaster Acute Hospitals Trust. I do hope there is something for everyone.

The BMA predicts that the NHS is on "Cusp of Collapse" and this winter more than a million patients will wait longer than 4 hours in AE, 350,000 would wait on trolleys. Simon Walsh, BMA Emergency Medicine Lead analysed the need for 10,000 more beds. The good news is the 2019-20 pension tax relief has been announced.

With this I wish you the very best for the festive season and look forward to your contributions for the 2020 issue of the Morecambe Bay Journal.

THANHS for reading joint Editorial

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

Shadaba Ahmed
Editor

& Paul Tickner, Online Publisher

For the next
issue deadline
is mid March
2020