

Editorial



It is a time of change. We are informed on a daily basis of new arrangements for the running of the hospital trust. The passage of the Health and Social Care Bill provides a challenge for all of us as we consider what time-honoured practices will be sacrificed.

A new medical school means a chance for a new curriculum. Some feel that it is a curriculum 'too far'. Others have embraced the development with enthusiasm. I have tried to summarise the state of the science on page 218. I have given the article the enigmatic title of 'Anatomy teaching "in the Yemen"' in reference to the novel and film about a ludicrously ambitious plan to transform the geography of a region. In the story, the great idea comes under serious threat from those who cannot live with the consequences. The good idea prevails and there is a happy ending, but it's a close run thing.

Of course, not all change is so radical. Much change can only be introduced gradually after a very careful and patient study of the existing evidence. Our population needs careful surveillance for a slow growing benign brain tumour: the chance observation of a high local incidence needs further investigation (page 212). A commonly performed medical procedure, the epidural steroid injection, is under the spotlight (page 225) and there are new guidelines about how it should be performed. And sometimes the pace of change is just too slow for the team that wants to get on with developing the service and take the opportunities that are so obvious to it (page 237).

Change of a different form is an inevitable consequence of the passage of time. In the last few weeks we have lost two former hospital colleagues (page 238). They each started their careers in the very early days of the NHS and their lifetime's work put Morecambe Bay on the map.

Andrew Severn
Editor

New Head of Research and Development at University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust



Jane Pearson is the new Head of Research and Development at University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust. She has recently been doing some project management for Cumbria and Lancashire CLRN, supporting primary care research. Jane comes from Greater Manchester CLRN, where she was Lead RM&G Manager and before that was Research and Development Manager at Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. She completed a PhD in anaesthesia and critical care medicine at Manchester University and followed that up with two post-doctoral posts at Newcastle University and Lancaster University. She considers the combination of researcher and management experience gives her a pragmatic and facilitative approach to her role.

Newly arrived, she is taking stock of the research projects going on within the Trust and assessing how the department works. Research activity within the Trust appears to be

growing and there is a good team of research practitioners who are working hard to support the research portfolio. Over the coming months, she hopes to work with the R&D team to further develop the Trust's research portfolio, with a view to strengthening the links with both local universities and the pharmaceutical industry. The Trust already has well-established links with NIHR Cumbria and Lancashire CLRN and other NIHR topic networks: increasing recruitment to NIHR research portfolio studies in line with NIHR CLRN objectives is a key part of this.

Increasing research activity within the Trust will benefit patients, adding to their treatment options and enhancing patient safety and quality of care. Please do get in touch with Jane if you are interested in conducting some research and would like assistance.

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