

# Editorial



Dear Readers

Writing an editorial always compels me to reflect on events in between production of issues. This current interlude is particularly tragic and distressing. The traumatic events in London and Manchester which united the nation in shock and grief have cast a long shadow over the country. However, life limps sadly on. Although Healthcare systems globally remain vigilant against Cyberattacks yet the WannaCry malware attack occurred. Apparently the virus was able infiltrate the system due to the use of Windows XP by NHS Trusts. Microsoft does not recommend use of Windows XP any longer. Incidentally the mid point of the NHS 5 Year Forward plan has just been crossed

In the editorial office we have delivered our pledges:

1. The Grand Round on publishing was delivered by Tracey and myself in May in Royal Lancaster Infirmary. It was well received.
2. For on-line publication of the journal in future a software system has been chosen. The Health Informatics team are currently working on its general availability.
3. Invited editorials of any description remain really hard to achieve. I had invited a few eminent people who, despite their best intentions, have been weighed down by work and have been unable to fulfil their promise.
4. I have reshaped the editorial board based on retirement and personal commitments of the different members. The updated board is detailed on the inside cover
5. Last and most pleasing is that this issue is fully peer reviewed. A big thank you to all the reviewers. We should certainly be on our way to obtaining an impact factor at some point. A plea for volunteers for peer review was circulated a while ago and I reiterate that need again here. To review an article is of immense value in anyone's publishing career. Please do contact me with your kind offers of assistance.

In response to multiple questions regarding the vision and aim of the journal, I have developed the strap line "spreading information – gathering interest". As that is precisely the function of this journal. The journal target audience is all loco-regional Allied Health Professionals and health care partners of the NHS. The journal hopes to provide an update of developments within our area and to stimulate interest in publishing.

In this issue we have our first case report. Radiology continues to provide interesting case reports. Dr Knox, despite his busy schedule, provides an excellent write-up on health and well-being. Acute otitis media and bronchiectasis in my opinion are topics of wide interest in the medical field. An up-date on Lancaster Medical School is most appreciated. It is a timely update as the graduation ceremony is imminent. I found the article on postcode lottery particularly pertinent to contemporary NHS commissioning. The article contributed by the patient representative provides suspense, positive outcomes, humour and much needed laughter in medicine.

It continues to be my ardent desire to have more letters to the editor and case reports submitted for future issues. Primary Care and Lancaster University remain our valued partners and contributors. Joanne deserves special accolade for her diligence and dedication to proof reading every single article in every issue

The conviction of Ian Patterson; the breast surgeon, has highlighted the issue of patient safety in private hospitals. The Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) has strongly recommended that the private sector report safety incidents and mortality with transparency similar to the NHS. Google DeepMind is researching artificial intelligence with increased vigor to implement it into machines. Jeremy Hunt is set to create history as the longest serving Secretary of State for Health. The first female president of the RCS has just finished her tenure. Hospitals in the UK are trying to develop extended teams to cope with recruitment and lack of appropriate workforce for out of hours work. Brexit and its implications on the NHS are manifold – they encompass work force, training, the European Working Time Directive (EWTD) and apparently every device with a CE mark of the Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has an uncertain future. The CE mark is for the EU alone! It had been mentioned often "June could have been the end of May" but determination and commitment have prevailed.

Hopefully you will sit in the sun with drink in hand and read this issue soon. The Met Office has confirmed summer is here. Wishing we all enjoy the lighter side of life.

THANKS for reading

Awaiting your feedback and contributions

Shadaba Ahmed  
Editor

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