Editorial

A privilege and a pleasure

Ken Shaw

It was always going to be a hard act to follow. After eight years of editorial leadership, my good friend and colleague Arun Baksi had well and truly established Practical Diabetes as ‘The Journal for the Diabetes Care Team’. With his commitment to the fundamental principle of ‘education for the educators’, those early days working with Arun were both exciting and inspiring, a tribute finely encapsulated by his founding publisher, James Wroe.1

Taking over the editorial reins seemed a very daunting prospect at the time, but with an extremely supportive and professional publishing team along with the most splendid of editorial board members the task became progressively easier and more enjoyable, simply a reflection of everyone working together and contributing their individual energies and exceptional skills. The core editorial philosophy of Practical Diabetes has always been directed to the multidisciplinary diabetes care team in whatever health care domain that may be, publishing educational content that would be valued for its practical guidance on the day-to-day care of people living with diabetes. The delivery of diabetes care has much changed over these 22 years, but Practical Diabetes has responded to these changing circumstances and has been able to provide a valued platform for different evolving models of care to be promoted and debated. Readership evaluation has been an important guide to us, and we have been encouraged that overall the journal does continue to achieve its educational aims and that it does provide a special reference source for best clinical practice. That knowledge is recognised with much appreciation.

Inevitably, over such a long period of time, those involved with the journal have been many. The journal itself has moved through a number of publisher hosts: Media Medica, PMH Publications, Wiley and latterly Wiley-Blackwell. Similarly, it has been a privilege to work with immensely talented publishing editors who make the production of each issue so seamlessly efficient and effective. I am particularly indebted to Roslyn Elson, Tracey Curtis, Sarah Blagbrough, Tim Dean, Helen Tupsy, Elspeth Lee and Caroline Birch for their superb contribution to the journal’s sustained success.

The editorial board members themselves have been incredibly supportive, both in commissioning of new material and in the demanding role of robust peer review. Individuals have changed over the years, but my gratitude to them will be long lasting. Because of the many colleagues who have served as editorial board members, I find it invidious and impossible to mention one but not others, and so please all know how grateful I have been to each and every one of you. Many thanks indeed.

The publishing world is moving forward at a fast rate and new media technology presents the challenge with opportunity for better ways of presenting educational information. This retiring Editor-in-Chief understands this future, but recognises that it requires a younger generation to confront and implement it.

To that effect, I am delighted that Rustam Rea has agreed to take up this challenge and to take the journal forward into this exciting new world. I am very confident he will do so, and I wish him well with the enterprise.

Thanks again to everyone.

Ken Shaw, Editor-in-Chief (1992–2014)
Practical Diabetes

Reference

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