

Editorial

Letter from the Editor

A Niroshan Siriwardena MMedSci PhD FRCGP

Visiting Professor of Primary Care, School of Health and Social Care, University of Lincoln, UK

We have come to the final issue of 2006 and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers and contributors good wishes of the season.

This year has seen an increase in the number and quality of submissions received by the journal. The articles we have published have been of a very high standard due to the hard work of both Authors and Reviewers. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all our Authors and Reviewers for their work and commitment throughout this year and to say that we look forward to their ongoing support in 2007. A list of peer reviewers is included below.

I would also like to thank members of our Editorial Board which has also seen some changes this year. Professor Martin Roland left the board last spring to take up his new additional role as Director of the National School of Primary Care Research. We would like to thank him for his work and contribution to the journal during his membership of the Editorial Board and wish him well in his new role. We are also delighted to introduce some new members to the editorial board. They are Terri Harding, Secretary of the United Kingdom Federation of Primary Care Research Organisations, Maxine Offredy, Reader in Primary Care at the University of Hertfordshire and Richard Hays, Professor of Medical Education at the University of Keele. We have also increased the membership of the International Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal and extend a warm welcome to Peter Szilagyi, Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Rochester, New York (United States), Moyez Jiwa, Professor of Primary Care at the Curtin Institute of Technology, Perth (Australia) and Davis Balestracci of Harmony Consulting in Portland, Maine (United States).

We have received over 70 submissions over the past year, with 20% of these coming from countries other than the United Kingdom, including the United States

(6), Canada (1), Mexico (1), Mainland Europe (2) and Australia (2) and the Far East (3). Of those articles that we received over the previous 12 months, excluding commissioned articles and editorials, around 50% were accepted or accepted subject to revision. Some studies which were initially rejected after peer review were subsequently accepted for publication after major revision of the paper following recommendation by the editor or peer reviewers. It is a credit to the efficiency of our peer reviewers and journal office that the average times from submission to first response (three days), in peer review (18 days), from submission to initial decision (27 days), and from submission to final decision (53 days) have been exemplary for a quarterly journal. We are continuing to strengthen the processes of the journal, most recently through membership of the World Association of Medical Editors.

We are also planning some special editions of the journal for next year including 'Patient Perspectives in Quality in Healthcare' (Guest Editor: Patricia Wilkie) and also 'Commissioning for Quality Improvement' (Guest Editor: Steve Gillam). If you are interested in writing an article related to these themes then please submit your article in the normal way or contact the editorial office.

In the forthcoming year we hope to improve and develop the journal with your continued help and support.

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Professor A Niroshan Siriwardena, Visiting Professor of Primary Care, School of Health and Social Care, University of Lincoln, Lincoln LN6 7BG, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1522 886939; fax: +44 (0)1522 837058; email: nsiriwardena@lincoln.ac.uk

Reviewers in 2006

Alison Dunkley

Alison Morton

Andy Meal

Ann Spaight

Azhar Farooqi

Brenda Poulton

Catherine Smith

Charlie Brooker

Christine Johnson

David Cunningham

David Kernick

Geoffrey Meads

Hilton Dixon

Ian Squire

James Jarrett

Jane Bethea

Jane Dyas

Janet Walker

Jeremy Miles

Jo Middlemass

John Wilmot

Judy Smith

Kamlesh Khunti

Keith Stevenson

Kieran Walshe

Maxine Offredy

Melody Rhydderch

Michael Gordon

Michael Moore

Moyez Jiwa

Nigel Sparrow

Patricia Wilkie

Paul Milne

Paul Twomey

Rachael Spencer

Robert McKinley

Ros Kane

Ruth Reilly

Sara Owen

Sarah Redsell

Steve Gillam

Tim Stokes

Willie Hamilton