

Editorial

Quality in Primary Care indexed in Medline in 2008

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Quality has become the watchword of health services throughout the world and primary care is increasingly being seen as central to its achievement.¹ *Quality in Primary Care* has seen some important developments for the journal over the past year. The key development has been our success in achieving indexation in Medline. This is a tribute to the work of authors and reviewers as well as the journal office, the editorial board and publisher in maintaining and improving the quality of the journal. My particular thanks in this regard go to Janet Andrews, Editorial Assistant for the past two years, who has recently left the journal to pursue a new role in the university.

I am fortunate to have a strong and active editorial board. This year we were delighted to welcome Professor Peter Groenwegen from NIVEL. We have to say goodbye to Professor Peter Szilagyi from Rochester, New York and I would like to thank him for his advice and support. As well as our links in the United Kingdom, North America and Australia we have become the official journal for the European Forum for Primary Care, chaired by Professor Jan de Maeseneer.² We have published a number of position papers of the European Forum which aim to increase discussion and collaboration on primary care management in important areas of care.^{3–5} These important associations will continue to foster international dialogue on quality improvement thinking, activity and research.

We have continued with our special issues, guest edited by members of the editorial board of the journal, which have proved to be immensely successful. These included, in the past year issues on 'Development of Nursing Practice and Scope' (Guest Editors: Sarah Redsell and Francine Cheater) and 'Professional Regulation' (Guest Editors: Brenda Poulton and Maxine Offredy). My thanks go to them for their efforts in supporting the journal and commissioning such excellent articles. This final issue of 2008 is devoted to the theme of 'Organisational and Educational Interventions for Quality Improvement' and I am grateful to Keith Stevenson and Richard Baker as Guest Editors for their work in commissioning a number of thought provoking papers from experts in this field. Next year

further special issues are planned, in particular, a special issue on 'Ideas, innovation and advances in Australasia' edited by Moyez Jiwa.

Most published papers in *Quality in Primary Care* in 2008 were research papers or short reports (20), but discussion papers (7), articles on quality improvement or clinical governance in action (5) and international exchange (7) continue to feature. We also have regular editorials or guest editorials (17) and features such as patient perspective (4), 'knowledgeshare' (4) and quality digest (6).

Altogether we received nearly 90 submissions over the past year, with almost 30% of these coming from countries other than the United Kingdom, including the United States, Mainland Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Of these, excluding commissioned articles and editorials, around 75% were accepted or accepted subject to revision.

Performance figures, which have been published annually in QPC since 2006 have remained healthy for a bimonthly journal. For articles submitted in 2008, the average time (for 67 articles published) was 131 days from submission to publication, acknowledgement within two days, initial decision 34 days and submission to final decision 58 days. We initially reject around 50% of unsolicited papers, although some of these are published following extensive revision and resubmission.

I would like to personally acknowledge and thank all our authors and reviewers for their work and commitment throughout this year. We look forward to your ongoing support in 2009. A full list of peer reviewers is included below. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, our readers and contributors, every success for 2009.

REFERENCES

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- 2 Aarendonk D and De Maeseneer J. *Quality in Primary Care*: official journal of the European Forum for Primary Care. *Quality in Primary Care* 2008;16:145–6.

- 3 Maxwell M and Pratt R. Prevention and management of depression in primary care in Europe: a holistic model of care and interventions – position paper of the European Forum for Primary Care. *Quality in Primary Care* 2008; 16:187–96.
- 4 Maier M, Knopp A, Pusarnig S *et al.* Diabetes in Europe: role and contribution of primary care – position paper of the European Forum for Primary Care. *Quality in Primary Care* 2008;16:197–207.
- 5 Rosenberg M, Kalda R, Kasiulevicius V and Lember M. Management of chronic kidney disease in primary health

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