

Editorial

It somehow seems appropriate to be writing this editorial on our Sixtieth Anniversary as a clinical interest group because I have just celebrated my own sixtieth birthday – and I'm sure that none of us can forget that the National Health Service (NHS) is also 60 years old. My parents always told me that I was special, but I never realized until recently that it was because they had to pay for my delivery: my mother had to go to a nursing home, where she was confined to bed for 10 days after the 'normal' birth and not allowed home for nearly 3 weeks! My brother, who arrived a year or two later, was free, courtesy of the new NHS!

It is always fitting to mark a special anniversary in a suitable manner, and we hope that our conference at the end of September will highlight the event for all who attend. The executive committee will formally announce their decision to establish a new role within the ACPWH at Conference. For details of this exciting new initiative, please see 'Vice-president: new role for a new era' (pp. 76–77).

The journal subcommittee is delighted to make its own contributions to mark this special occasion. First, we are advertising for the first peer reviewers for the journal (see p. 112). Please let us know if you are interested – we cannot provide a peer-reviewed journal if no one is prepared to volunteer as a reviewer. We will begin with a peer review of one paper and gradually increase the number as our resource list of reviewers grows.

Secondly, you will be pleased to note that, from October 2008, the *Journal* will be available, in its entirety, to view on our website. The most recent three issues will be available to begin with and will be restricted to 'members only' access.

Thirdly, we have put together a special Sixtieth Anniversary section (see pp. 50–77) for you to read – we hope that you will find it interesting and enjoyable. With all the comments on the changing face of the NHS being printed and broadcast in on the news as I write (early

July 2008), I wonder how much we have progressed, especially in the field of obstetrics, which was the discipline that most physiotherapists were involved with in the early days. I would not presume to answer my own question, but ask you to make up your own minds – happy reading! You never know, it may even stimulate a discussion or two.

Finally, please help me with some detective work for the next edition of the *Journal*. We would like to compile a list of all the Anne Bird Prize winners since the inception of this award. If you were a recipient, please e-mail me with your name and the year that you received the award.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to two of our stalwart committee members, Helen Forth and Becky Aston, during the year. Both have given many years of dedicated service to the journal subcommittee, and have been enthusiastic, willing and reliable in fulfilling their roles. I would like to thank them on behalf of ACPWH for all that they have done and wish them both well for the future. We have welcomed Jo Racle and Doreen McClurg, who have taken over from Helen and Becky, respectively. Linda Boston has also joined us as a new committee member. Jenny Kinahan has come to the end of her term of office as website editor. She will be making a last contribution to the next issue (Number 104, Spring 2009) and then leaving us. Many thanks go to Jenny for her consistently interesting articles and for her valued contributions over the years. We welcome Karen Radford, who will replace Jenny, and Andrea Yeboah; they will both join both the committee in the autumn.

I hope you enjoy celebrating this year, whether it is on behalf of the NHS, your own sixtieth birthday or our own very special clinical interest group. There is much to celebrate and be proud of within ACPWH – let us keep up the good work. Here's to the next 60 years!

Ros Thomas

Cover photograph: Badge of office of the ACPWH president (see pp. 75–76).

Copy deadline

Copy (including disks) for the Spring issue of the Journal (No. 104) must be submitted to the editor by **9 November 2008**. Please note that academic and clinical articles must be received well before the deadline since time must be allowed so that they can be informally reviewed. Manuscripts should be printed on one side of A4 paper, **double-spaced** with a wide margin and adhere to the author's guidelines found on p. 122. Articles for consideration should be sent to Mrs Ros Thomas, Byway, Chapel Lane, Box, Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 8NU.