

## Editorial

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As part of our cost-cutting measures, the *Journal* subcommittee has 'met' twice this year, very successfully, via a teleconference. The purpose of the second meeting in May was to evaluate replies to the recently circulated questionnaire and to establish the way forward for *JACPWH*.

We received 68 replies, which represents 10% of the total membership, and therefore, this was a reasonable response. Sixty-four of you were sympathetic to the reasoning behind the economies resulting in the slimline Spring *Journal*. The vast majority favoured the regular inclusion of clinical papers, research topics, papers in other journals and conference reports in each issue, with the remainder of the articles going on the website.

This edition is still affected by financial constraints, but the increase in advertising revenue is proving very valuable and, if the trend continues, should provide adequate funding to support *JACPWH* in its previous format in the future. We realize that many of you do not like advertising, but I would urge all of you to accept it and acknowledge its importance if the *Journal* is to thrive.

Eventually, we hope to return to the normal *JACPWH* format, including all the usual content, but limiting the page count may be one way to control costs more easily. In turn, this means that some articles and reports may be subject to a maximum word count. Production editor Andrew Wilson is amending the 'Guidelines for Authors' document, which you will find on the website. Some conference lectures and reports will be posted on the website soon after our conference.

We have begun the peer review process for our clinical submissions (excluding conference papers) and now have a team of six reviewers: many thanks to all those who volunteered – we very much appreciate your time and effort. During this transitional stage, it was not possible to review all of the papers, but three were appraised by two reviewers each. The intention is that all clinical papers will be peer-reviewed from the next issue onwards. This will keep the standard high and raise our credibility in the world of medical journals, and may lead to being indexed

in more erudite publications. It will also assist in ensuring that authors follow the guidelines more stringently.

We could usefully add to our list of peer reviewers: you do not need to be an expert in all fields of women's – or men's – health. Do e-mail me if you wish to know more.

Please remember to access articles of interest and information on the website. If you have not registered for the 'Members Only' section, then please do so as soon as you can – you do not want to miss the ever-increasing amount of important information now posted on the website. Full details appear on the home page ([www.acpwh.org.uk](http://www.acpwh.org.uk)).

May I also draw your attention to the statement, soon to be located on the website, concerning electrical stimulation treatment following abnormal cervical smears? This document was drawn up in response to an ever-increasing number of queries from members.

Finally, I must say farewell as editor of the *ACPWH Journal*. It has been a challenging 3 years, which have seen the production of our hundredth edition, the celebration of 60 years of our Association, a financial recession, and more than our fair share of illness and domestic upheavals within the committee. My special thanks go to Andrew Wilson for his unwavering professionalism and expert guidance. Thanks also to the team at Henry Ling. The skilled typesetters and printers of *JACPWH* are rarely recognized, but contribute greatly to the overall high quality of our *Journal*, which is cited as a gold standard by our peers. Last, but not least, thank you to my committee, who have been supportive, enthusiastic and a pleasure to work with.

I am delighted that both Kathleen Vits and Linda Boston have jointly volunteered to take over the role of editor. I have every confidence that they will do an excellent job and I wish them great success. Sad though it is to leave, I look forward with great anticipation to seeing *ACPWH* and its *Journal* survive, thrive and go from strength to strength.

**Ros Thomas**