

Editorial

Our learning curve as co-editors of the *Journal* continues, but we are pleased to say that it is beginning to flatten out at last!

This edition of *JACPWH* comes with *The Margie Polden Memorial Lectures: The First Ten Years*, a commemorative supplement reprinting the complete run of these presentations, which have been delivered at our Annual Conference since 2000. It is difficult to believe that so much time has elapsed since Margie Polden passed away. We both knew Margie and were taught by her, and it is a testament to her skill, enthusiasm and drive that she is still so fondly remembered. We are sure that *The Margie Polden Memorial Lectures* will be read with interest by all who receive it, and her family are keen that the supplement should also be made widely available as a teaching tool in places of education.

Preparations for Conference 2010 are now well underway. We look forward to seeing you all in Leeds and plan to publish many of the talks in the *Journal* next year.

This edition of *JACPWH* includes the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting that was held earlier this year (pp. 23–28), and we hope that you will all take some time to read through this summary. The minutes will help you to understand the huge amount of work undertaken by the Executive on your behalf, and any comments or suggestions will be gratefully received. All future minutes will be published on the ACPWH website, allowing you to follow the progress of our Association. We also hope this will mean that some of you will develop an interest in becoming a member of one of the various committees in the future. For an organization to be healthy, it needs input from its members at all levels, so please do not feel that you are neither confident nor knowledgeable enough to join us. Also included in this *Journal* is an article that is intended to show the level of education that is now offered in women's health physiotherapy and the high quality of work produced by the students who take these courses (pp. 21–22). The Association has always been in the vanguard of physiotherapy clinical interest groups with regard to educating its

members and we are striving to maintain that position.

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy is currently negotiating with the physiotherapy clinical interest groups in order to amalgamate all relevant websites under its umbrella. Preliminary proposals have been given the approval of our Executive Committee, and we can look forward to a more interesting and interactive website that exploits modern technology. It should be noted that Peter Bray has worked hard for us on our current site and we are grateful for his input over the years. We need to encourage more of our members to visit the ACPWH website because so much information is now posted online (see p. 33), so please look around your staff room and see if anyone requires help with improving their computer skills, or perhaps, download some of the information and leave it lying around for them to read.

Fitwise Management Ltd are helping ACPWH to formulate a business plan for the future, and the Executive have been analysing our strengths and weaknesses with a view to making us more effective and efficient. The business plan will be presented to the membership for your approval as soon as possible.

Listening to the radio on the way to work this morning, the news was full of the pain being felt by the public-sector workforce, and we are sure that some of our members are having a difficult time maintaining services and that many of you feel undervalued. However, we are fortunate in that we have our patients' improvement and gratitude to remind us why we fight to maintain the current level of service. Nevertheless, finding the evidence to prove that our treatment interventions are effective will become even more important if we are to sustain and advance our services. Some of you will have been involved in a national audit of continence services using National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and Department of Health guidelines, which will be interesting to read when it is published. This audit may strengthen our case for some services or change the ways in which others are delivered. The current jargon is

‘vertical integration’, which simply means integrated services, but with an emphasis on merging primary and secondary care. Whatever happens, we are sure that our members are resourceful

enough to continue to provide the best service possible within the constraints of these difficult times.

Kathleen Vits & Linda Boston

Cover photograph: Sunrise over Bournemouth.

Copy deadline

Copy (including disks) for the Spring 2011 issue of the *Journal* (No. 108) must be submitted to the editors by **13 September 2010**. Please note that academic and clinical articles must be received well before the deadline since time must be allowed so that these can be peer 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 pp. 42–44 and on the ACPWH website (www.acpwh.org.uk). Articles for consideration should be sent to Mrs Kathleen Vits, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Princess Anne Hospital, Tremona Road, Southampton SO16 6YA, UK.