

Editorial

This edition of the *Journal* appears at a time when many changes are taking place. The National Health Service is asking almost all of us to justify our existence, and many members are writing reports in an attempt to maintain their departments. A problem can often arise when someone on our staff leaves and we are asked to take on a replacement at a lower grade; for example, when a Band 7 post is replaced by a Band 6. We have decided to reinstate the *JACPWH* letters page so that members can write to us if they are having problems or to let us know if they have found an effective way to promote their department that may help others. So, if you are dealing with a burning issue, please tell us about it. We will do our best to publish all letters that we believe are of interest to the readership.

When times are difficult, this can mean that we lose sight of the improvements that have been made over the years. We are sure that those of you who have been working in the field of women's health for a while will remember a time when courses and conferences were few and far between. Now these are numerous, and we have to choose and prioritize which ones we attend. This is especially so now that funding has become a real barrier for many members and we believe that this will continue to be a problematic area.

Conference 2011 is rapidly approaching and this will be a unique occasion in our Association's history because it is being held as a joint venture with the International Continence Society (ICS). We must thank our Scottish members, ably led by Kate Lough, for the enthusiasm they have displayed in getting this combined event underway. We hope that it will help to raise the profile of ACPWH on the global stage, and we are sure all of you who are lucky enough to be able to attend will find it a worthwhile experience. If you are unable to go, then you will be able to read some of the material presented by the guest speakers in the next edition of *Journal*, of course. The abstracts for the main ICS conference are published by their organizing committee and will be available to every delegate who registers, so we hope that enough members will attend to ensure that this rich resource is available in many departments.

Please refer to our benefits of membership poster on the inside back cover of this issue. The Association always strives to recruit and retain members, and this is especially important in the current economic climate. If you know of someone with an interest in women's health, then why not let them see your copy of *JACPWH* and extol the benefits of being a member? The more of us there are, the easier it is to keep subscriptions low.

Our third year as editors is just starting, and we now need to find a successor or successors because prospective editors need to spend at least a year on the Journal Subcommittee before being eligible for the post. Recent advances in technology have significantly changed the way in which the *Journal* is put together: the majority of editorial communication is conducted electronically, so sound basic computer skills are needed for the role. Most of our meetings are now teleconferences for myriad reasons, including cost and time savings, although we make every effort to speak face to face at Conference. It is always easier when you have actually met the person who is talking on the phone! The main reason that a biannual meeting in London is no longer needed is that so many decisions and discussions can be held quickly and efficiently using e-mail. You will have to prepare yourself for plenty of activity in your inbox.

Prospective candidates naturally need to have an active interest in *JACPWH*, so if you eagerly await each edition and devour its contents, then please join the Journal Subcommittee. We need a steady turnover of committee members to ensure that we get fresh ideas that can help to shape and evolve the profession. The work greatly contributes to your continuing professional development and the steep learning curve soon flattens out – we still feel very proud when the new issue of the *Journal* arrives on our doorsteps. It is an extremely interesting and worthwhile job that can be done by anyone with a serious interest in *JACPWH*, and you do not need to have vast experience in women's health because a lot of help and support is available.

We try to keep members up to date and you will find details of any recent changes in the world of women's health physiotherapy in the

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Journal. For example, this edition has an article explaining professional networks (see ‘Notes and news’, pp. 46–47) that we urge you to read.

Finally, we must make our constant plea again: please continue to submit articles to be considered for publication, especially if you have recently completed one of the courses needed to gain membership of ACPWH. You have already invested lots of time, so why not go the extra

mile and see your work in print! If you are not sure of the format, then look at the guidelines at the back of the *Journal* (see pp. 50–52). Even if you are not sure if your work is up to publishable standard, please send it to us anyway and we will let you know what we think. We’re always happy to make suggestions and give constructive advice.

Kathleen Vits & Linda Boston

Cover image: The Clyde Auditorium, affectionately known as ‘the Armadillo’, part of the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow, UK: the venue for this year’s joint ACPWH and International Continence Society annual conferences.

Copy deadline

Copy (including disks) for the Spring and Autumn 2012 issues of the *Journal* (Nos 110 and 111) must be submitted to the editors by **12 September 2011** and **12 March 2012**, respectively. 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. 50–52 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.