

Editorial

The challenges of these times continue to affect both the National Health Service and the private sector, and we hope our readers are coping with the changes. Anecdotally, we hear of jobs being downgraded when the incumbent physiotherapist leaves. Please remember that the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) is always very interested to hear from members who are aware of instances of this practice. As a profession, we are fighting hard to upgrade our skills and maintain a career structure for newly qualified staff, but unless we keep the band 7 and 8 posts within the service, we will continue to see a haemorrhaging of competent individuals from within our speciality.

On a brighter note, we are delighted that Ros Thomas has been presented with the Distinguished Service Award by the CSP (see pp. 43–44). This has been well and truly earned by Ros, who has worked tirelessly for ACPWH over many years as both Chairman and Journal Editor. She still serves our organization formally as Publications Secretary and informally as a great listener.

Conference 2010 needs more than a passing mention: Ann Johnson and her team put together a varied, interesting and balanced pro-

gramme that had something for everyone, and for the first time that we can remember, the meeting was sold out weeks beforehand. Having an internationally renowned speaker may have helped with the popularity of the event, and if you attended, we hope that you were inspired by Kari Bø's presentations (see pp. 12–13) and that you also got a chance to speak to her personally.

The strategic plan for our Association is included in this edition of *JACPWH* (see pp. 35–38). This has taken the Executive Committee, headed by Chairman Ruth Hawkes, many hours to collate and ratify. Ruth will be happy to receive any comments that you might have about the plan (her contact details can be found on the facing page, p. 2).

We are still looking for more work to be submitted to the *Journal*, and we are aware that a lot of time is spent on essays and dissertations by postgraduate students on our various courses, whether it is a weekend seminar or a part-time Master's degree. You can make a difference by sharing what you have learned with the rest of the membership by submitting your work for publication, and as co-editors, we will help you as much as we possibly can.

Kathleen Vits & Linda Boston

Cover image: Ros Thomas with her Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Distinguished Service Award at the Russell Hotel in London.

Copy deadline

Copy (including disks) for the Autumn 2011 issue of the *Journal* (No. 109) must be submitted to the editors by **14 March 2011**. 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. 53–55 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.