

Editorial

Introduction

This edition of the *Journal of Pelvic, Obstetric and Gynaecological Physiotherapy* marks an exciting new beginning. We are trying to fill the very large shoes left by the previous editor, Dr Gillian Campbell. As you will know, Gillian's contribution to the journal over the past 4 years was distinguished by such determination, hard work and passion that we knew that it would require two of us to replace her. On behalf of the entire Journal Subcommittee (JSC), we offer Gillian our sincere thanks for everything that she has done for POGP during her time as editor, and for making all of our experiences as her colleagues so positive and inspiring. We are so grateful that Biljana Kennaway is continuing in her role on the JSC as associate editor, and her guidance will be invaluable as we find our feet.

Who are we?

Gráinne Donnelly

I am an advanced physiotherapy practitioner in pelvic health based in Northern Ireland. After working for more than 13 years in the National Health Service, I left to expand my experience in new areas, including research. I am enjoying working clinically in private practice, and pursuing a new challenge as I begin a PhD. I have been part of the JSC since 2021, and I am excited to take on this new role as co-editor.

Christine Addington (she/her)

I am a neurodivergent (obsessive compulsive disorder and dyslexia) physiotherapist and researcher. I work at both James Paget University Hospital, Gorleston-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, where I am doing a preceptorship in pelvic health physiotherapy, and as a research associate for the University of Exeter, Exeter, Devon. My passion is using participatory research methods to dismantle healthcare inequality. I am relatively new to the POGP journal, but I have already experienced the dedication and warmth of this encouraging community, and am thrilled to work alongside everyone!

Our mission as editors

Being a part of the dedicated pelvic – and wider – healthcare community, one of our primary goals

is to improve the quality of care received by our service users. As new editors, we aim to achieve this by engaging with and working alongside our members and the wider readership through a collaborative journal community that provides evidence-based, accessible and representative content.

Collaborative community

Based on some of our own experiences, academia can be intimidating, elitist and off-putting, so we want to continue the supportive community that Gillian and her predecessors have built. This journal provides a space in which healthcare practitioners can be assured that they will be supported whatever the stage of their academic and/or clinical career. We believe that great healthcare services are built on sharing our approaches to practice, and we would like you to tell us about yours – what you would like to see more of? That is why we are reviving the “Letter to the Editor” feature, and invite comments and feedback from our members. If you have anything relevant to the journal or our professional network that you would like to let us know about, please do get in touch.

Evidenced-based research

In keeping with the high standards set in place by our previous editors, we intend to ensure that only high-quality, evidence-based reports are published. The blinded peer-review process will continue to guide our acceptance of submissions. The clinical commentaries included in each edition of the journal will discuss the available evidence for a topic and apply this to the clinical setting.

Accessibility

We want to provide information that is accessible to as many people as possible. By ensuring that the journal uses different sources of information, we hope to appeal to and meet the needs of all learning styles. This will include academic scientific reports, clinical commentaries, infographics, video abstracts and the continuation of our “Getting the most out of research” feature, which is intended to improve links between

academia and clinical practice by breaking down the academic process into comprehensible and clinically applicable information.

Representation

We acknowledge that scientific research has played a large role in perpetuating healthcare inequality. The reciprocal relationship between scientific study and healthcare means that social, racial, gender and disability biases filter into policy, clinical guidelines and our practice. Therefore, individuals who belong to under-represented groups can experience prejudice and poor access to healthcare services. We believe that the POGP journal can help to reduce these

biases through the provision of content that is representative, relevant and responsive to the diverse needs of our pelvic health community (i.e. both colleagues and service users). Therefore, we will be actively commissioning research studies, product reviews and clinical commentaries that serve people from communities that have typically been excluded. We hope that this will provide our readership with the increased awareness and knowledge required to provide healthcare services that meet the diverse needs of our service users, colleagues and teams.

We are excited to share this new adventure with our pelvic and wider healthcare community!

Gráinne Donnelly & Christine Addington

Copy deadlines

Copy for the Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 editions of the journal (Nos 133 and 134) must be submitted to the editor by **20 April 2023** and **12 October 2023**, 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 presented double-spaced with a wide margin, and adhere to the author's guidelines found on the POGP website (https://thepogp.co.uk/journals/authors_guidelines/guidelines.aspx), which can be accessed using the QR code on the right. We welcome all submissions relevant to Pelvic, Obstetric and Gynaecological Physiotherapy from multidisciplinary colleagues around the world (e-mail: journal@thepogp.co.uk).

