

# Progress for *The Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care*

## The Journal goes on line

*The Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care* is going on line and members and subscribers will be able to access the electronic version of the Journal via the Faculty website at [www.ffprhc.org.uk](http://www.ffprhc.org.uk). The print journal will continue to be published, into the foreseeable future, and will continue to be sent quarterly to all subscribers and members of the Faculty. The electronic journal will be published at the same time as the print version, and full text will be accessible to members and subscribers. One exciting development that will become available through the electronic medium, will be the ability to access abstracts (and sometimes full text) of papers cited in references by clicking onto the reference you wish to follow up.

The Journal's table of contents and abstracts will be freely accessible to anyone using the internet.

I anticipate that there will be teething problems with the electronic medium and would welcome your feedback of any problems encountered so that we can respond and improve the service.

The Journal's notes for contributors, peer review policy, management of competing interest and COPE guidelines on good publication practice are available on line via the Faculty website. The notes for contributors will be updated annually and published in print form in the January issue that begins the new volume each year. The other documents will be kept under review and updated as necessary.

## COPE guidelines on good publication practice

### Redundant publication

#### Definition

Redundant publication occurs when two or more papers, without full cross-reference, share the same hypothesis, data, discussion points, or conclusions.

#### Action

- Published studies do not need to be repeated unless further confirmation is required.
- Previous publication of an abstract during the proceedings of meetings does not preclude subsequent submission for publication, but full disclosure should be made at the time of submission.
- Re-publication of a paper in another language is acceptable, provided that there is full and prominent disclosure of its original source at the time of submission.
- At the time of submission, authors should disclose details of related papers, even if in a different language, and similar papers in press.

### Plagiarism

#### Definition

Plagiarism ranges from the unreferenced use of others' published and unpublished ideas, including research grant applications, to submission under 'new' authorship of a complete paper, sometimes in a different language. It may occur at any stage of planning, research, writing, or publication. It applies to print and electronic versions.

#### Action

All sources should be disclosed, and if large amounts of other people's written or illustrative material are to be used, permission must be sought.

### Duties of editors

#### Definition

Editors are the stewards of journals. They usually take over their journal from the previous editor(s) and always want to hand over the journal in good shape.

Most editors provide direction for the journal and build a strong management team.

They must consider and balance the interests of many constituents, including readers, authors, staff, owners, editorial board members, advertisers and the media.

#### Action

Editors' decisions to accept or reject a paper for publication should be based only on the paper's importance, originality, and clarity, and the study's relevance to the remit of the journal.

Studies that challenge previous work published in the journal should be given an especially sympathetic hearing.

Studies reporting negative results should not be excluded.

All original studies should be peer reviewed before publication, taking into full account possible bias due to related or conflicting interests.

Editors must treat all submitted papers as confidential.

When a published paper is subsequently found to contain major flaws, editors must accept responsibility for correcting the record prominently and promptly.

**Fran Reader**, FRCOG, MFFP

*Honorary Editor Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care*

## Intra-uterine contraception and adverse incident reporting

The Medical Devices Agency (MDA), part of the Department of Health, has the remit to collect and review adverse incidents involving medical devices. It is good clinical practice to report all serious adverse incidents such as perforations, pregnancies or limb/thread breakages with GyneFix or the framed IUDs to the MDA. The information MDA need is:

- Type of device
- Batch number
- Date of insertion
- Any technical difficulties with insertion procedure
- Date problem identified
- Diagnostic procedures undertaken
- What subsequent action has been taken
- Client clinic number or other local identifier.

The MDA can be contacted at: MDA, Adverse Incident Centre, Hannibal House, Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6TQ, Tel: 020 7972 8080, Fax: 020 7972 8109. The product specialist for this area is Alison Austin.