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

Electronic journal

They say the path of true love never runs smooth, and it seems that the Journal's love affair with information technology follows the same course! Due to teething problems we have extended the period of free access to the full text of the on-line journal until October 2002. Please pass on the website address – www.ffprhc.org.uk – to any potential future subscribers be they individuals, institutions or libraries. After October Faculty members and subscribers to the journal will continue to have free access to the full text and non-members and non-subscribers will be able to access abstracts only or full text on a pay-per-view basis.

Statistics revisited

Part 1 in the mini-series 'A review for contributors and readers' written by our statistical advisors on the theme of 'Summarising data' was published in the October 2001 issue of the Journal. Part 2 entitled 'From samples to populations: estimation and hypothesis testing' is published in this issue (see pages 101–104). Parts 3 and 4 will follow later this year. We hope the series will be helpful to those of you undertaking research and considering publication in the Journal. We also anticipate the series will help us all to improve our critical reading skills.

Emergency contraception

The Journal's regular feature '25 Years Ago: Then and Now' on page 105 looks at progress over the last 25 years in the field of emergency contraception. The rubric is followed by a brief commentary from Anne Weyman, Chief Executive of **fpa**, formerly the Family Planning Association, giving an update on the importance of the outcome of the UK judicial review following the challenge to emergency contraception from the pro-life lobby.

Intrauterine devices (IUD) and intrauterine systems (IUS)

The focus for this issue is on intrauterine contraception with commissioned editorials, the FACT and original papers. I hope you find the Journal's policy of focusing on specific

topic areas interesting and useful. Feedback on this issue and ideas for future issues are welcome.

Fran Reader, FRCOG, MFFP

Editor-in-Chief, The Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care

Journal Club

This issue of the Journal sees the restructuring of the Journal Club format. In order to understand and practice evidence-based medicine, we as health care professionals must develop critical appraisal skills to allow us to read papers with a critical eye. We must have the confidence to decide if published results are sound and relevant to our own clinical practice. Traditionally, however, critical appraisal skills have been poorly taught. The development of the Membership Examination for the Faculty of Family Planning introduced a critical reading paper. Many courses on critical reading have also been developed, acknowledging this essential skill. Papers related to reproductive health will continue to be reviewed, by a variety of clinicians, working in this field. The papers chosen for review will be identified if they cover topics relevant to the themes of a particular issue or alternatively if the paper is thought to be important to all readers and likely to change practice. The results of the paper will be summarised. The aim of the Journal Club will be to present these results, together with an appraisal of the strengths, weaknesses and potential biases of the study. The objective is to allow the reader to identify the quality, relevance and reliability of the results. If you are keen to be a reviewer of published medical literature related to sexual and reproductive health please contact Susan Brechin c/o *Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care*, 19 Cornwall Terrace, London NW1 4QP, UK or send an e-mail to journal@ffprhc.org.uk.

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