Faces behind The British Journal of Family Planning

The following are welcomed as new members of the Editorial Advisory Board:

**Ruzva K Bhathena, FRCOG, MD, MFFP**

Based in Bombay, Ruzva Bhathena is a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the Petit Parsee General and Masina Hospitals. He obtained his postgraduate training at the St. George’s Hospital Medical School in London. His special interests are infertility and reproductive health. He has received several international scholarships, and has more than 40 publications in peer-reviewed British journals. He is on the Editorial Boards of the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* of the Institute and *The Menopause Digest*. He is a member of the FIGO Advisory Panel on the Menopause.

**Elizabeth M Carlin, MB ChB, DFFP, FRCP**

Elizabeth Carlin is a Consultant in Genito-Urinary Medicine at the King’s Mill Centre for Health Care Services, Mansfield and at Nottingham City Hospital, Nottingham. She graduated from Sheffield University in 1984 and completed general professional training in general medicine before embarking on a career in genito-urinary medicine. Her interests include HIV infection, *Chlamydia trachomatis* and the interface between diverse aspects of sexual health. In addition, she leads the genito-urinary medicine link between Nottingham City Hospital and Jimma Hospital and the Jimma Institute of Health Sciences, Ethiopia, facilitated by the Tropical Health Education Trust, London.

**Lindsay Edouard, MSc, FFPHM, FRCOG, MFFP**

Lindsay Edouard is a graduate of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, University of London, where he subsequently worked. Following appointments with the World Health Organization in Geneva and the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, he took up a position with the United Nations Population Fund where he is currently Senior Reproductive Health Officer in the Technical and Policy Division in New York. His main interests are the epidemiology of, and international perspectives on, reproductive and sexual health.

**Lindsay Smith, BSc, MClinSci, MD, FRCGP, MRCP, DRCOG, DFFP**

Lindsay Smith has been a rural GP in Somerset for over 12 years. His practice is a Culyer funded research general practice, and was one of the first funded in the UK. He has long standing clinical and research interests in women’s health care, working with the RCGP, RCOG, NPEU, Audit Commission, NHS and DoH. He has wide experience in multidisciplinary education and also in quality; he has been Chair of the RCGP Quality and Clinical Network and is Chair of the local MAAG. He continues to teach research methods for the masters degree in Primary Care at QMW College, University of London, where he was previously a part-time Consultant Senior Lecturer.

**Petrus Steyn, MB ChB, MMed, FCOG, MPhil, DFFP**

Petrus Steyn is Head of the Family Planning and Reproductive Health Unit at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. His interests include emergency contraception, social sciences methodology, continuing medical education and information availability on the Internet. He is a member of the Perinatal Mortality Research Unit of the Medical Research Council of South Africa.

**Gill Wakley, MB ChB, MFFP, MIPM**

Gill Wakley has recently downshifted to have more time to write. She now has a ‘portfolio career’ as a lecturer in primary care, plus a part-time Senior Clinical Medical Officer post in family planning and psychosexual medicine. She has an interest in making all the constituent parts of clinical governance work in everyday practical ways, particularly aspects involving education and training. A new venture is publishing on the web, and she would like to see medical education moving more into this interactive medium.

**Chris Wilkinson, MBBS, MFFP**

Chris Wilkinson is working between family planning and genito-urinary medicine as Consultant in Women’s Health at King’s College Hospital, London. He is an Education Committee Member and former Secretary to the Clinical and Scientific Committee. His main interests include specialist contraceptive services complimenting those in general practice, management of sexually transmitted infections in community settings, colposcopy and cervical pathology in HIV positive women.
25 Years of The British Journal of Family Planning

This issue celebrates the 25th anniversary of Journal. The first issue was distributed free to 2000 doctors in April 1975, 5 months after the inaugural meeting of the newly formed National Association of Family Planning Doctors (NAFPD).

The history of the Journal up to 1995 was reviewed by my predecessor Jeanette Cayley in her editorial for the 20th anniversary.1 Over those first 20 years the Journal passed through the capable editorial hands of Mike Smith, Ruth Skrine, Bridget Freidmann and Elizabeth Forsyth. In 1991 Jeanette took over as editor and remembers: “I turned up at the 1991 NAFPD AGM, idly thinking that I should update myself in family planning. I had had a chequered career in general practice, graphic design, would be medical historian and family planning CMO, before working as a doctor writer at BMA News Review. In order to remain sane and solvent, I returned to family planning while looking for jobs in publishing. However, fate intervened. At the AGM David Bromham became Chairman of NAFPD and Elizabeth Forsyth announced that she wished to retire as Honorary Editor. Driven by curiosity yet again, I offered my services and the NAFPD committee were prepared to take a risk and accept me. I was unexpectedly promoted to SCMO within a year, which was both an advantage and disadvantage, as it increased my general workload. However, I inherited a splendid publishing team and had stalwart support from Corin Jones (who proved to have an innate feel for editing and publishing).”

Jeanette had four ambitions for the Journal:
1. To gain entry to all major databases, especially NML Index Medicus and MEDLINE
2. To keep costs low
3. To make it the official journal of a future Faculty of Family Planning
4. To develop an international profile.

All these ambitions were realised in time, but the Journal became a victim of its own success as submissions quadrupled, circulation rose to 10 500 and the new Faculty dealt with its own mounting demands for staff and accommodation. The time had come to for more changes, with designated office staff and a commercial publisher able to take on the increased burden of work.

With these tasks ahead I entered the scene; a frustrated writer who had had to let go of her desire to study for an English ‘A’ level in favour of the dreaded Physics, in order to follow her other desire to study medicine. Now, at last, I feel I have come full circle and found a way of combining both passions.

So 10 months on and Rita Carter continues to blossom in her new role as Journal Administrator and Professional, Managerial & Healthcare Publications (PMH) are contributing their sort-after expertise as the commercial publisher with Kay Dempster as the Managing Editor and Sarah Monger as Sales Manager. There is also a new team on the Editorial Advisory Board to represent the wider interests of our evolving speciality and to continue developing the Journal’s international profile.

As with all changes, there are bound to be teething problems but I believe that most of the milk teeth are through and I hope the wisdom teeth will develop without impaction or extraction!

Fran Reader  FRCOG MFFP
Honorary Editor

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