WHAT’S IN THIS ISSUE

DISABILITY, SEXUALITY AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

Editorials and Overview
This edition of the Journal highlights the issue of disability, sexuality and access to services, confirming that expression of sexuality is a basic human right and part of ordinary life and that we, as service providers, need to be adaptable and ready to extend the same level of care to all clients. If access is a problem then the problem is ours and not the person with the disability. The editorials by Elaine Cooper (page 123) and Dave Thompson (page 125) are challenging and informative. Glynis Murphy has provided an overview of the current situation regarding capacity to consent for people with learning disabilities (page 148) updating the legal situation in the UK and confirming the importance of appropriate sex education.

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

Guidance on contraceptive choices for women with inflammatory bowel disease
The Guidance document in this issue provides information on the effects of inflammatory bowel disease in women of reproductive age with particular reference to contraceptive choices, fertility and pregnancy (page 127). All Guidance documents are stand-alone and can be photocopied or downloaded from the Internet via the Faculty website (www.ffprhc.org.uk) for distribution.

A case report (page 154) also discusses the clinical situation for a woman who experienced a relapse of her Crohn’s disease after being fitted with a levonorgestrel intrauterine system.

NEW PRODUCT REVIEW

Desogestrel-only pill (Cerazette)
This edition sees publication of the first Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU) evidence-based New Product Review on Cerazette (page 162). This document is also available electronically at www.ffprhc.org.uk. For information about future CEU initiatives, including product reviews, readers should refer to News from the CEU (page 169).

FEMALE STERILISATION: THE CHALLENGE TO IMPROVE SERVICES

Female sterilisation: is it what women really want?
A team from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK reports on a review of the effectiveness of their female sterilisation counselling clinic in a hospital setting (page 136). The service is run by the family planning clinic and reports an attendance rate of only 68%. Following counselling two-thirds of attendees chose female sterilisation and one-third chose alternative forms of contraception. Only 41% of those referred underwent sterilisation. The authors suggest changes to the booking system that may address this. Many of those who did attend were unaware of highly effective, long-term reversible contraception and, following counselling, chose these alternatives.

MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

Mifepristone and misoprostol for medical termination of pregnancy: the effectiveness of a flexible regimen
A team from Bolton, UK present their experience of offering a more flexible regime of mifepristone/misoprostol administration for medical termination of pregnancy (page 139). They report a high success rate for complete abortion whether misoprostol was administered 24, 48 or 72 hours after mifepristone.

YOUNG PEOPLE: GETTING IT RIGHT

It’s official – young people are not a homogenous group! Providing information for young people in sexual health clinics: getting it right (page 141) reports on interesting qualitative research into information for young people attending sexual health services. The authors confirm that young people vary greatly in their needs for sexual health information and consequently health care professionals need to be sensitive to their individuality and be prepared to strike the right balance between face-to-face discussion and leaflets, moving between superficial or in-depth levels of information as appropriate.

POP AND >70KG

Member’s enquiry service: frequently asked questions
Surprise, surprise – we want advice about whether or not to double up the progesterone-only pill in women weighing >70 kg. Read the answer on page 160.

EVIDENCE-BASED REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Randomised control trials (RCTs)
The evidence-based medicine series picks up the Cerazette theme to help explore the use of the RCT in forming our evidence base (page 165).

Fran Reader, Beccy Hobbs and Nick Manassiev
Editorial Team, Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care

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Drugs, preparations, instruments and appliances
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FROM THE EDITORS

Charles Lamb described retirement as ‘walking about’ not ‘to and from’. With this in mind I am delighted to retire to the role of Editor Emeritus for the rest of this volume and the ‘to and from’ into the able hands of Anne Szarewski as the newly appointed Editor-in-Chief.

However, before I go I have an important apology to make to all readers. In April I talked about slipping up on the banana skin of the downside of publishing – proofreading with your brain not engaged. In April we transferred to a new printer and were delighted with the prompt dispatch of the Journal to readers ahead of schedule. However, we all missed the fact that the pagination for the April issue was identical to that of the January issue (in that the pagination of both issues began at page 1)! We have raised this matter with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and received reassurance that it is not a problem for MEDLINE and PubMed as long as we point out the error to readers – see the Errata on page 159. When referencing papers it is always helpful to give the issue number as well as the volume number. It is essential to do this when referencing a paper from one or other of the two affected issues.

On a brighter note, this issue sees inclusion of the CEU’s statement on Cerazette. This is a first for the Journal and the CEU and it provides a service to readers that we feel sure will be appreciated. The CEU will continue to publish statements on new products on the Faculty website at www.ffprhc.org.uk as well as in the Journal.

Finally, I have enjoyed my years as Editor-in-Chief. I have learnt something new with the challenges of every issue. My thanks go to everyone who has helped to produce the Journal over the last 5 years: authors, peer reviewers, the Editorial Advisory Board and Editorial Board, our publishers PMH, printers past and present, and Ingenta who have given the Journal an electronic presence. My good wishes for the future go to Anne and her new venture.

Fran Reader, FRCOG, MFFP
Retiring Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care