**Diabetic Medicine December 2020**

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**Diabetic Medicine: my swan song**

I must confess that I have been putting off writing this editorial because it marks the end of my 15-year association with the editorial team of Diabetic Medicine. This journey began when Sally Marshall approached me to become an associate editor, a post I held until Graham Hitman appointed me as the European regional editor. I am now reaching the end of my five-year term as editor-in-chief and looking back, I am proud of the changes we have instigated and the progress we have made with the journal. Bringing down the turnaround time and improving the quality of the peer review has improved the author experience, while the use of social media has increased the dissemination of our papers. Although the impact factor has not changed, the number of article downloads has steadily increased showing the clinical relevance and interest of our papers for readers.

I cannot say that I have enjoyed every minute - dealing with ethical and plagiarism issues has been challenging - but reading the advances in clinical science around diabetes care and bringing papers to successful publication has been vastly rewarding. I have also been touched by many emails and messages of support or thanks from readers. It has been wonderful to be part of the academic and publishing community in this effort. Clearly, I could not have done this alone and I owe a huge debt of gratitude to all the talented and dedicated associate editors and editors from across the world and the team at Wiley. It has been a wonderful privilege to work with so many gifted people and I will miss you all.

And so, it is now time to look to the future. Succession planning is always a concern for an outgoing editor, and it is a great pleasure for me to introduce Professor Nick Oliver as the incoming editor-in-chief. Nick is based at Imperial College London and has been a member of the senior editorial team for several years. His experience and respect within the diabetes community means that the journal is in an extremely capable pair of hands. I wish him all the very best and hope he enjoys the experience as much as I have.

There are exciting times ahead for Diabetic Medicine. From next year the journal will move to online only as print subscriptions have dwindled into single figures. Moving to an electronic format will remove the constraint of page number limits and allows greater flexibility in the number and length of articles we can publish. Grasping this opportunity, Diabetic Medicine will expand its scope from being solely a clinical journal to the inclusion of basic science. For many years, Diabetic Medicine has been an obvious choice for publication of Diabetes UK funded research and the move to include basic science will afford the same chance for Diabetes UK funded basic researchers. We are currently in the process of appointing a basic science editor to oversee this transition. Next year will also see the centenary of the discovery of insulin and I am sad not to be part of the celebrations within the journal of this seminal discovery in the field of diabetes.

My final issue is typical of the past 5 years with the usual spread of original research spanning care delivery, epidemiology and complications. One paper that particularly caught my eye, however, was the Diabetes UK Position Statement on the use of DIY closed loop systems for people with type 1 diabetes [1]. Despite not being approved by regulatory bodies, increasing numbers of people are using these, often with great success. This creates an ethical, legal and professional dilemma for healthcare professionals. The position statement lays out the need to respect the right of the person with diabetes to make their own informed decision while considering the need to provide support and balanced advice about the risks and benefits. It is an interesting article and a must-read for anyone looking after people with diabetes.

And so now, it’s goodbye from me and over to you, Nick.

Richard IG Holt

University of Southampton

Editor-in-Chief

Diabetic Medicine

References

1. Dowling L, E G Wilmot EG, Choudhary P. Do-it-yourself closed-loop systems for people living with type 1 diabetes. Diabet Med. 2020 May 18. doi: 10.1111/dme.14321. Online ahead of print.