

Editorial



I was around the hospitals when the CQC came to inspect, but I never met them. I don't know why. People who felt strongly about things could have made an appointment. Maybe I should have sent them a few copies of the *Journal* or met them myself. I wish I had.

I would have told them about a supportive and tolerant culture that has enabled the

Journal to thrive over the last decade, of a relationship between management, clinicians and editor that has been of mutual benefit and productive despite the occasional editorial polemic. They could have read of colleagues who have taken their expertise and the good name of the organisation to the tops of the Cumbrian fells and the ends of the world. They would have met people who have been recognised for their work with the Queen's Birthday and New Year's honours of OBE and MBE (three in ten years). They would have read that the delivery of healthcare is underpinned by historical links with the community that remain vivid and real in the hearts and minds of those who work here. They would have read the annual lists of research and communications marking the achievements of individual clinicians, and of truly innovative nursing practice in advancing practice and science.

I could have just given them this issue:

- We realise that people are overworked and that boundaries between professional and personal life risk becoming blurred by the IT revolution. The mobile device that has displaced the ophthalmoscope as essential 'uniform' from doctors' pockets carries with it a whole range of hazards and Helen Speed (page 47) has taken the opportunity to advise us of proper practice and to warn us that for the foolish, the unwary, the lonely or the plain unlucky, the GMC lies in wait.

- We note that our medical students continue to provide us with valuable insights across a whole range of conditions and innovative aspects of medical practice and that their supervision reflects the quality and foresight of local clinicians (pages 36 and 41). We see that students are not afraid to audit progress, even when progress is painfully slow (page 30). We celebrate the recent honour bestowed on the Dean of the Medical School.
- We see a Trust leadership that is not complacent about the CQC findings and understands the importance of communicating with its staff (page 28).

When CQC returns there will hopefully be a new editor who can make his/her presence and views known. The editor's post was described to me by my predecessor as 'the best job in the Trust' – probably an accurate description. Access to senior management, clinical colleagues and the medical school has been an exciting privilege, and the opportunity to assist individuals to get their thoughts on paper has been immensely rewarding.

There is no person specification and relationships are not well defined at present: these things can be tweaked by the new person. The Trust pays for the production costs and the salary of the editorial assistant, but editorial 'independence' is guaranteed by the historic relationship between the editor and the Medical Staff Committee of the Trust and an editorial board that meets from time to time.

The editor has the privilege of a Trust laptop and a share of a quiet office. I will pass them on to my successor. Salary can be negotiated with the divisional manager. Come and find me if you are interested.

Andrew Severn
Editor



Warmest congratulations to Professor Anne Garden (Lancaster Medical School) who has received the award of an MBE for services to Medical Education in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. The award is thoroughly well-deserved recognition of the contribution Anne has made in the field of Medical Education more generally, and the crucial role she has played in the successful establishment of Lancaster's Medical School specifically.

She said she was delighted with the honour: 'It was totally out of blue and I couldn't believe it when I got the news. This happens to other people, not to me!'

Professor Garden arrived at Lancaster University as Director of the Centre for Medical Education in April 2006, having previously been Head of the School of Medical Education at the University of Liverpool.

Having graduated from the University of Aberdeen in 1973 and house jobs in Aberdeen and Stornoway, she settled on a career in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, becoming a Member of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RCOG) in 1979 and Fellow of the RCOG in 1992.

She worked in Cape Town, South Africa, and Toronto, Canada, before taking up a post as Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Liverpool in 1987.

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