

# Editorial



If there is a consistent message from the last two issues of the *MBMJ* it's that the *Journal* is being read around the region, and even possibly making an impact on the national stage. The last issue, in which my contribution was limited to the headline of 'open wide' and the trimming of one enthusiastic contribution to fit in with the page limit, made its way to the Chief Dental Officer. We were well pleased with his response (see below).

Three years since we wrote of changes to the NHS that were so big 'you can see them from space' we continue to speculate as to what is happening. That euphoric 2010 meeting in Grange-over-Sands of primary and secondary care doctors who were going to take on all the problems and bypass the

communication failures seems a long time ago. Rumours of the death of Public Health, if the example of Stockport is anything to go by, are exaggerated (page 346). The direction is of continuing integration and interdependence, and Morecambe Bay, as a geographically isolated site, is painfully seeking its own way through the challenges. Who determines skill mix in hospital departments – commissioner or provider? Who pays for redeployment costs or underwrites the 'redundancies'? The revolution is coming, neither with a bang nor a whimper, but quietly.

In the meantime, academic life thrives. The student special study modules are a joy to read; the submission of a real piece of postgraduate scientific work (page 355) is a privilege for us.

Andrew Severn  
Editor

From Barry Cockcroft  
Chief Dental Officer for England

*“ I was forwarded a copy of the summer edition of your medical journal. I was extremely impressed and understand how much work must have gone in to its production. As a former 'interested clinician' I found it a really good read. The presentation of complex clinical cases in a way that made them eminently readable by non-specialist clinicians is really excellent and can only, in the long term, have a beneficial impact on the development of services in the area. ”*

# MBMJ

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Dentistry in Marakesh. Photograph by Sue Hammett. Maxillofacial secretary, Furness General Hospital.

## Open wide!!

The *MBMJ* occupies a unique position in the field of medical publications, firstly because of the length of time that it has been in existence, secondly because of the opportunity it gives to students and trainees to be published, and thirdly because it gives individuals and departments the chance to update colleagues in the trust and the wider healthcare community.

The staff in the maxillofacial unit has always recognised the importance of the relationship between themselves and their primary care colleagues. In recent years, for example, clinical networks have been established thus paving the way for the

establishment of dental practices offering some of the services which were traditionally delivered in the hospital setting.

This issue describes some of the work that is currently being carried out by the maxillofacial unit. The unit comprises the three separate specialities of restorative dentistry, orthodontics and oral and maxillofacial surgery; each has contributed to this summer publication offering a wide, varied and I think interesting review of our services.

Peter Dyer  
Maxillofacial Surgeon

## MBMJ Prize for best article by a junior doctor (2012)

Congratulations to Rhiannon Oliver: Her article

'Clinical and radiological analysis of cerebellopontine angle pathology: a retrospective study', published in Summer 2012, Volume 6 Number 8, wins the prize, which is worth £200 and is awarded annually.