

FROM THE EDITOR

As another year draws to a close, I am happy to reflect on another successful period for our Journal. Submissions continue to increase in quality and number and our peer review process is becoming more streamlined, although I admit that we still have a way to go. The recent supplement on Difficult Decision Making in Trauma has been extremely well received and compliments those previous editions such as Wounds of Conflict I and II, Combat Casualty Care and Defence Anaesthesia which represent state-of-the-art reviews of practice at one of the worlds leading trauma centres.

I am delighted to announce that as of March 2011, the Journal has been accepted by Thomson Reuters Web of Science, which means that in due course they will calculate our Impact Factor. This will not appear until 2014, but the first steps have been taken and it is now beholden on everyone involved with the Journal to ensure that we make our Impact Factor as impressive as can be - the higher quality articles we publish the higher our score is likely to be.

The planned refurbishment of the website is almost complete and has been achieved largely offline. There will be a transition period during which the old site will disappear and the new one appears and is tested where access will be prohibited but I anticipate this being of the order of a few days only. When the new site is operational I would welcome any feedback from users. As another first for the Journal, we will be hosting an 'on-line only' supplement, which presents a series of articles by Col

Bricknell reflecting the experiences of the Medical Branch during UK leadership of the Regional Command Headquarters. This series of articles provides first hand exposure to the complexities of managing medical support to operations and should be read by clinicians and planners alike. An introduction to these articles follows below and the content list is included in this edition. The articles themselves are downloadable from the website free of charge.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the journal and it's success this year. This includes everyone who submitted an article, whether accepted and published or not, all those who have reviewed for us – and they are thanked separately at the end of the edition, and the Editorial Board who have provided expert support and guidance to the Assistant Editor and I. Finally, I wish to say thank you to Mrs Bev Amphlett who has worked extremely hard as the Editorial Assistant for the last two years, ensuring the administration of the Journal is on the straight and narrow after several years of less than perfect service. By the time this edition lands on your doorsteps, Bev will have retired and what the future holds in terms of her replacement is unclear as financial austerity measures bite hard; there may have to be significant changes to how we produce our journal.

Lt Col Jeff Garner
Editor *J R Army Med Corps*

FOREWORD

Managing Medical Support to Military Operations – The Headquarters Regional Command (South) Experience

It gives me great pleasure to pen the 'paper' introduction for a collection of papers on managing military medical support to operations for the Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps which represent a number of significant steps in the development of this Journal. The first is the introduction of electronic (or 'on-line only') publication of a Journal supplement to complement its paper publication and increase the volume of material that can be presented to the readership. The second is the publication of a supplement which focuses on the management of military medical services which complements the excellent special issues that this Journal has published on clinical subjects. The third is the use of this Journal to capture a record of the United Kingdom's experience of managing military medical support at the operational level. A situation where the UK will have lead nation responsibility for this scale of military operation in the Land environment is likely to be infrequent and these papers offer a rare opportunity to capture the lessons from managing medical support at this scale. In both my previous and current appointment I play a role in the capture of operational medical lessons, a vitally

important process for us to help guide the hand and thoughts of those who come after us. We have had an unprecedented level of practical military medical experience during the past decade which we must capture. The publication of this collection of papers represents another significant contribution by the *JR Army Med Corps* to this 'lessons learned' process and I would strongly recommend that all of you who read it consider too whether you could also contribute to the debate and capture of knowledge for the benefit of future generations of service personnel and those who will care for them.

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