

# From the editor

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Welcome to the second issue of 2018. The issue is book-ended by two personal views of senior doctors, reflecting on changes they have seen in their long careers. John Wilson, former Vice President of the College, examines some of the failings of the NHS, and offers some solutions. Sir Kenneth Calman, former Chief Medical Officer, first of Scotland and then of England, looks back on 50 years in medicine, during which he faced a number of general and more discrete crises, including bovine spongiform encephalopathy ('Mad Cow Disease') and HIV. He has witnessed some improvements in public health, including reductions in smoking rates, but notes continuing challenges, many due, in large part, to social inequalities.

For some time, outcome data from individual surgeons have been collected and published in England. Perhaps not surprisingly, there has been concern about how equivalent data might be collected about physicians (and to what end). Beckett and colleagues discuss how they collect such data about the work of acute medical physicians in a large Scottish district general hospital. The physicians themselves have 'taken ownership' of the process; this has improved the acceptability of the process, and probably increased its accuracy. The physicians themselves are in a position to use these data to reduce clinical variability, and, ultimately, improve the service offered to patients.

I should very much like to welcome the *Journal's* new Editor-in-Chief, Dr Vinod Ravindran, whose appointment has been homologated by the College Council. We recently met; I was delighted to learn that he had done some of his early postgraduate training in North Wales. He completed his postgraduate training in general medicine and rheumatology at St George's Hospital, London, and associated units. For the past nine years he has been working as a consultant rheumatologist, and is currently based in the Centre for Rheumatology, Calicut, Kerala, India. Dr Ravindran is the first Editor-in-Chief to be based outwith the UK, which reflects the College's and the *Journal's* international scope and reach. He has considerable editorial experience, in particular as the editor-in-chief of the *Indian Journal of Rheumatology*. He has exciting plans for the *Journal*, particularly in the 'online' world, and in promoting content from outwith the UK.

I would also like to welcome to the team, Graeme Currie, Education Editor, and Ian Chan, Associate Education Editor. Dr Currie is a Consultant Chest Physician in Aberdeen, and Dr Chan is a Specialist in Geriatric Medicine in Hong Kong.

This is my final issue of the *Journal* as Editor-in-Chief. I would like to thank my erstwhile and current fellow editors. It has been a pleasure working with you. Graeme McAlister and Jeanette Stevenson have provided flexible links with other departments of the College and, on occasion, wise counsel. The President has been a staunch supporter of the *Journal*. Susan Laurence, and more recently Rona Gloag and Russell Davidson, have provided excellent day-to-day support. Without them, there would be no *Journal*. This issue is also the last prepared by Rona, our senior production editor for the last four years. I wish her well in her new post with the journal *Anaesthesia*. Thank you, Rona.

Finally I must thank all those friends and colleagues whom I have asked nicely, cajoled and sometimes pleaded for manuscripts and reviews. I promise no more 'Martyn sends his best wishes, and would you mind...' emails from the *Journal*.

**Martyn Bracewell**  
Editor-in-Chief