

British Journal of Pharmacy

www.bjpharm.hud.ac.uk

Editorial

BJPharm Second Issue: Maintaining Open Access to High Quality Publications at No Cost to Authors

The inability to access scientific literature freely can be a major obstacle in the advancement of science. Many reputable journals offering optional open access incur a substantial upfront payment to cover their publication costs, and hence many authors cannot afford to publish open access papers in a journal with an established reputation. Publishers charging for article processing claim that the charge is necessary to maintain their reputation and costs for peer review, editing and indexing articles. Thus, some open-access publications have a less rigorous peer-review and editorial process.

The BJPharm has a mission to bridge this gap between reputation and quality, while offering a free service to authors and readers across the globe, and this month marks its first anniversary of fee-free, high quality, open access publication across various disciplines around pharmacy.

The non-fee charging model for open access publishing is not easy and the success of BJPharm lies behind the honorary team of volunteers: the editors, peer reviewers, and the University Press. The journal would not have been possible without invaluable contribution from the whole team.

The second issue of British Journal of Pharmacy continues to embrace the diversity of topics that are relevant to the profession of pharmacy in an accessible format that is open to all readers. We have to thank the authors of the papers contained in this issue and, of course, the reviewers who gave freely of their time and expertise in order to help us maintain a rigorous peer-review process ensuring that we continue to deliver high-quality publications under a fully open access format. It is free-of-charge to publish and read in the articles in the journal and we thank the University press for providing us with the means to achieve this.

The review *Going Natural: Using polymers from nature for gastro-resistant applications* is a timely summary of what is a well-studied topic, but straddles the border between food and health applications and when considering claims made, it is important that we can objectively summarise the material that is already known and look to use sources that, like this, are peer-reviewed. Similarly, the value of systematic review of medications to inform clinical practice is exemplified in *Systematic Review of Medicine-Related Problems in Adult Patients with Atrial Fibrillation on Direct Oral Anticoagulants*. We have a paper outlining new approaches to more effectively deliver drugs to the eye and these were tested in an in-vitro model to simulate the complex and challenging environment of the eye. The importance of relating in-vitro results to the in-vivo situation is discussed in the paper on testing nail lacquers as a formulation for delivery of actives to the challenging target of the nail. We also have a paper on co-processing of starch with smaller amounts of other excipients to facilitate direct compression of a paracetamol formulation and thus extend its functionality.

We also have two papers from key opinion leaders on the potential impact of Brexit on the world of Pharmacy; one focussing on patents and SPCs and the second on implications on cooperation between the regulatory agencies, MHRA and EMA. We appreciate the efforts of the authors and the valuable time they have given to provide a timely, informative and balanced report on potential challenges Brexit may produce with specific relation to factors affecting pharmacy.

Additionally, with a view on the increasing need and capacity for recording, storing and sharing clinical data within Electronic Health systems, we have a comprehensive overview on the SNOMED CT and

the NHS dictionary of medicines and devices (dm+d). In line with our open access policy, we are delighted to be able to share this information as widely as possible with no cost to the readers. This allows dissemination of the best practice and current information to as large an audience as possible, sharing.

We hope you will enjoy reading the second issue of the British Journal of Pharmacy and welcome any comments and suggestions to strengthen this open access initiative.

Professor Barbara R. Conway (Editor-in-Chief)
b.r.conway@hud.ac.uk

Dr Hamid A. Merchant (Managing Editor)
hamid.merchant@hud.ac.uk

*Department of Pharmacy, School of Applied Sciences
University of Huddersfield, Queensgate
Huddersfield HD1 3DH, United Kingdom*

Email: bjpharm@hud.ac.uk

13th November 2017