

*New Directions* is a topical journal published by the Physical Sciences Centre in association with  $\pi$ CETL, The Physics Innovations Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

The journal is issued in paper and electronic formats once per year. It is intended for teachers, researchers, policy makers and other practitioners in physical sciences education.

An editorial board reviews all submissions.

The journal is free of charge to academics in UK higher education institutions. Subscriptions are available for those outside the UKHE sector who wish to receive the paper version. Contact the Centre for details.

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## Editorial

*New Directions* has now become an annual publication from the Higher Education Academy Physical Sciences Centre in association with  $\pi$ CETL, The Physics Innovations Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Our thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue which we think is a significant publication for those interested in improving teaching and learning in higher education.

In this this issue, of 80 pages, we have three reviews covering; aspects of e-portfolios, context or problem-based learning and peer assessment. Additionally, we have 14 communications from practitioners in the teaching and learning field; including articles from the two overseas speakers we invited to the UK this year, Melanie Cooper from Clemson University in the USA and David Mills from Monash University in Australia.

After the review of Outreach in issue 2, last year, that theme figures largely too in this issue; but amongst others there are also articles considering how to improve the 'student experience', safety, MCQs and communication science. There is a good mix of contributions from the physics and chemistry community but most of the articles have enough 'generic' material to be of interest to all in the physical sciences.

We hope you will find much of interest.

### Editor

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