

## Editorial 2017

Alan Thompson, Jack Antel, William (Bill) Carroll, Jeroen Geurts

With each year, we see new developments across research and therapeutics in multiple sclerosis with improved understanding of this challenging condition and exciting new advances. These are well reflected in the submissions to MSJ which have maintained their number and improved in quality, year on year. Our ongoing partnership with the TRIMS insures that we stay at the forefront of the field. We have continued all our recent initiatives and have introduced others. The most notable is a new series of short pieces entitled *Insights into ....* These will provide straightforward insights into areas which many of us find challenging - we are beginning in this issue with the first of six short pieces on statistics. Other planned topics for 2017 include microbiome research and epigenomics.

It has been very encouraging to see how our open access journal, MSJ-ETC, is evolving - we have now had over 60 submissions of which 34 have been published. We are embarking on themed issues looking at MS in different geographic areas of the world, commencing with Latin America with guest editors Jorge Correale and Daniel Onteneda.

Another exciting and successful development has been the appointment of a social media editor, Wallace Brownlee, who hails from New Zealand and is based in London. He has made great strides in bringing us into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In all seriousness, since we launched our Twitter account (@msj\_research) in September we have seen very lively engagement and can now boast 234 very active followers. To engage with us use hash tag #msj

Underpinning the journal's success is our editorial board and we have recently invited 12 new members to join us - covering a broad range of interests and expertise. We are very grateful to those that have stepped down. They have made a major contribution to MSJ and of course we hope they will continue to support the journal, both submitting and reviewing articles.

The editorial board meeting in London was as lively as ever with much discussion covering all the recent developments and many new ideas. We had a particularly useful discussion on the subject of themed issues after the success of Ruth-Anne Marrie's popular issue on the important topic of co-morbidities. A number of potential topics covering bio-medical, disease outcome, and clinical care challenges were suggested for the coming year.

Finally, just as we are writing this piece, the long-awaited and much improved new website has arrived - it has a very fresh, modern look to it and even more importantly, it is very easy to access information about the journal, the editors and the editorial board.

So, it has been a busy, productive and exciting year and we anticipate that this pattern will continue. We are keen to consider new initiatives and to be as interactive and responsive as possible. If any of you, our readers, have suggestions to make please do so - there is no shortage of avenues of communication and to the many hundreds of you who take the time and make the effort to provide instructive and helpful reviews - many thanks. Thanks also to the SAGE team, led by Jennie who respond to our many suggestions with energy and enthusiasm and to our local support who keep us on our toes and on time!

We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable Holiday season and here's to a healthy, successful and, above all, peaceful 2017.

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