

## In the beginning

2014 is the start of a new chapter for *The Diabetic Foot Journal*. The retirement of Alistair McInnes as Editor in Chief closes one door, but does not mean the end of his associations with the journal. I would recommend coming to this year's conferences (programme on page 4 of this issue) to hear not only an excellent overall programme of presentations based on clinical cases with practical application in real clinics but also to hear Alistair's take on the past, present, and future of diabetes foot care. He has so much experience to draw on and I am sure it will be interesting.

Alistair's withdrawal does, however, mean a change in the editorial line-up of the journal. I now move to become Editor in Chief and this leaves a vacancy in the Associate Editor role. So who fills Alistair's shoes? Obviously, it had to be someone with a growing reputation for research and innovation in podiatry and diabetic footcare across the UK and internationally.

They had to have an existing relationship with the journal and conferences. They also had to be based in the rest of the UK to balance my working in Scotland and I had to get on with them. We managed to find someone who met most of these criteria.

I am pleased to announce that Dr Paul Chadwick, Principal Podiatrist in Salford, will step up from the general editorial board into the role of Associate Editor of *The Diabetic Foot Journal*. Paul has been at the forefront of diabetes podiatry for a number years, culminating in his recent accession to the role of Chair of FDUK. He completed his PhD and used the experience gained to develop excellent links across clinical, research and industry boundaries. He has also been a stalwart of the *The Diabetic Foot Journal* conferences and recently the programme

committee has benefitted from his input. Therefore, Paul is the right choice for the journal at this time and under our joint editorship I expect the journal to continue to flourish.

However, we will need the help of you, the readership. The journal has a reputation for high quality clinical articles and for driving the agenda for standards and training over the past decade culminating in the publication of the *Podiatry Competency Framework for Integrated Diabetic Foot Care* (TRIEPodD-UK, 2012) and its close links with FDUK. We need to continue this progress over the next decade as the growing recognition of the importance of diabetic footcare in preserving life and limbs is challenged by commissioning in England, and financial pressures elsewhere in the UK. We want to hear your stories, and for you to interact with the journal to make this happen.

The journal is also a fabulous portal for you to get your research and audits published and read by an audience of 20000 specialists in the management of diabetes footcare. Innovations and improvements in care can come from anywhere. Publishing your own articles can seem daunting but the editorial team are excellent at critiquing submitted articles and I can guarantee that even if they are not accepted immediately they will be improved by the review process. So you have nothing to lose and a CV entry to gain and the journal is a great place to start.

The weekend of the 1 March 2014, when I write this editorial, has seen Manchester City (Paul's football team) win the League Cup and Newcastle United's (my team) manager fined for a fracas with an opposition player. We may have conflicting football fortunes but our aims for the journal are the same and with your help the future is looking good. ■



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TRIEPodD-UK (2012) *Podiatry Competency Framework for Integrated Diabetic Foot Care. A User's Guide*. Available at: <http://bit.ly/1dDOsIB> (accessed 18.03.2014)