

A new Editor for *Neonatal, Paediatric and Child Health Nursing*

Linda Shields *PhD, FRCNA*

Editor

Neonatal, Paediatric and Child Health Nursing has, over its history, gone from strength to strength. When I took over as editor in 2008, being mooted were changes that would see the journal become predominantly electronic in form, changes in the submission and peer-review systems, changes to advertising in the journal, changes in our relationship with our publishers, and changes in the website. The Journal Management Board has had a fine hand on the tiller and has supported us in implementing these changes. In 2008, with three editions per year, the bank of papers awaiting peer review and publication was small. In March 2011, we have 28 papers waiting for publication and we are having to consider increasing the number of editions. In addition, the papers are now coming in from many countries. Amongst those 28 are papers from, of course, New Zealand and Australia, along with some from Israel, The Netherlands, Pakistan, Sweden and the UK. In other words, we are beginning to be recognised internationally.

Being the editor of *NPCHN* has not always been an easy job. The changes have meant the need for adaptation and strong teamwork. This I have had in bulk from our associate editors, Ally Hutton and Denise Harrison, and latterly Annette Dickinson, who have been the key to the success of the changes and the refocusing of *NPCHN*. They have worked tirelessly, with revision of the editorial processes and making the systems run smoothly. Our publishers, Cambridge Media, in Perth, Western Australia, have been helpful in trying to understand what we have wanted and needed and have worked hard to put the new processes in place. In fact, it has been a learning experience for us all, as Cambridge Media have used us as 'guinea pigs' (with our blessing) to help them set up electronic processes for their stable of journals. Pam Nicol, until recently honorary treasurer of the Journal Management Board, has worked assiduously in liaising with Cambridge Media to sort out the financial and contractual implications of the changes and development of the journal. The publishing staff have all been as helpful as they can and nothing has been too much trouble.

So we now have to welcome our new editor, Professor Linda Johnston, from Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Linda will bring a whole new perspective to *NPCHN* and will bring a deal of historical knowledge, too, as she was part of the editorial team when it first began. As well, her international position will enhance the outreach of *NPCHN* and provide many opportunities for recruiting authors and peer reviewers.

There are some challenges ahead. The financial sustainability of *NPCHN* has to be addressed. As a membership journal, with only a small handful of independent subscribers, we have to find ways of increasing sponsorship and revenue. We have to reach out across the world to make it accessible internationally and continue to recruit authors from around the world, while providing an important vehicle for authors from Australia and New Zealand in which to publish their work.

As I step down as editor, I have one last job, and that is to thank the associate editors, Dr Alison Hutton, Dr Annette Dickinson and Professor Denise Harrison, for their support, drive and professionalism. Ms Jenny Hall has been very helpful with any bibliographic issues that have arisen and members of the Journal Management Board have always been there for me when I needed them. Pam Nicol, as I mentioned above, has my gratitude for her ability to deal with difficulties, and Melissah Burnett, who manages and writes our website, has always been extremely helpful whenever we have needed changes and revisions. Most importantly, I thank you, the readers, without whose interest the journal would not exist.

As I step down, I see the pile of other work on my very untidy desk and know I have done the right thing. As someone who finds it hard to say no, it has been a tough decision to go, but I know that Linda and her team will now move *NPCHN* forward in ways I could only have dreamt about.

Thank you all,
Linda Shields, PhD, FRCNA.