

## Editorials

### Goal setting

A new editor, a new publisher, a new beginning. Before we look to the future, however, we should recognise the achievements of the past and laud the evolution of the Journal under the guidance of my predecessors in the editorial chair. Henry Robson was synonymous with the Journal for many years and when reading the journal one felt that he had lovingly crafted almost every word himself. Sadly Henry is no longer with us, and his wife Ada died late last year, so ending long family links with the Journal. Peter Sperryn is the other major figure in the development of the Journal who almost single handedly brought it from its humble beginnings to its current international status. In the early days he did much of secretarial work and subediting himself during many hours, ensuring the Journal's publication through difficult times. He built links with many of the leading international figures of sports medicine and promoted the Journal enthusiastically worldwide. Those who attended the 1995 BASM annual congress were witness to the great esteem in which he is held by the BASM membership for his outstanding contribution to the Journal, but Peter has been an inspiration to an entire generation of sports medicine not alone through his dedication to the Journal but through his writing and teaching. We all hope he will continue in this mission. One of his last major achievements as editor was bringing the Journal to BMJ publications and it was this vision and foresight that ensures its future success. It is a great honour to be his successor and I am very grateful for his warm and enthusiastic encouragement. Adrienne Hardman, Wendy Dodds, Clyde Williams, and Dan Tunstall Pedoe also held the reins at the Journal during periods of transition and I am delighted that both Clyde Williams and Dan Tunstall Pedoe remain on the editorial board to steady my hand on the tiller.

And so to the future. This first editorial is an opportunity to lay out my plans for the coming years. While I see great opportunities to develop the Journal, the changes will occur by evolution rather than revolution. If you are an academic, a clinician, or simply have interest in sports medicine I hope that you will find these changes meet your needs. If you do not agree with the changes you can be assured that I am open to any advice, suggestions, or even the occasional grumble, so feel free to speak to me personally or open a dialogue in the correspondence section of the Journal. In this first issue you will find some minor changes and in future issues there will be further

invited editorials by local and international experts on topics of clinical, scientific, and educational interest. We also aim to publish review articles addressing, in particular, the medical benefits of exercise and the management of clinical problems. The academic papers will always be the core content of any journal and we shall be making a special effort to attract high quality manuscripts. One of the most exciting developments in British sports medicine has been the growth in university based academic departments and, while this will undoubtedly improve teaching in the discipline, these departments also have a responsibility to initiative high quality research and in this we can assure them of a voice. Of course there will always be a place for the individual clinician and we would encourage submission of case reports and clinical case series from your everyday work. The Journal will also publish peer reviewed abstracts from the shorts papers section of the BASM annual congress, the major academic meeting for sports medicine in the United Kingdom. The congress provides an opportunity to present new work and we hope by publishing these abstracts we can encourage increased support and foster academic development. We shall also audit our own performance and aim to speed up the time from submission to publication. So that you can see how we are doing we will begin to publish dates of submission and acceptance of papers but there is currently a backlog of accepted papers which will take some time to clear.

The academic standing of the journal depends on the quality of papers, but there are many human interest stories in sport and sports medicine which add to the rich tapestry of sporting life. Articles of general and historical interest, anecdotes or essays on items of relevance to sport and medicine may be published on their own merits or as fillers. This has been a very successful formula in other journals and adds greatly to the readability of the Journal. It will not in any way distract us from our academic objectives, but sport has a broad palette and we can paint a brighter picture by adding some colour. Our ambitions can only be realised if we have the material and we can only publish high quality work if it is submitted. The academic standard, the impact factor, and the enjoyment we all get from the Journal depends on you. I am only the conductor of the orchestra, you are the musicians.

DOMHNALL MACAULEY  
Editor

### The future of sports medicine

This is an exciting time to be involved in exercise science and sports medicine. Professional and public interest in our field is greater than ever, and many exciting developments and activities are under way. When I was beginning my career nearly 30 years ago, exercise science was not a respectable area of investigation in academic

circles. There was little good research under way, there were few quality graduate educational programmes, and funding for research in this field was essentially non-existent. Fortunately, all these things changed. Exercise science now encompasses disciplines from molecular biology to epidemiology, with important basic contri-