

## *From the Executive Editor*

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**T**HIS EDITION OF *CARDIOLOGY IN THE YOUNG* marks another innovation for the journal. For the first time, we have produced a themed issue with a guest editor. Our guest editor is Philipp Bonhoeffer, and our theme is the transcatheter occlusion of atrial septal defects. The journal is committed to publishing best scientific articles, and the best reviews about cardiology in the young, regardless of the subject matter. This commitment remains, but there are certain topics that rise to the top of the agenda in any specialty as new developments occur. We believe it is right for the journal to focus on them. Any one who has attended a scientific meeting in paediatric cardiology recently cannot doubt that the occlusion of defects within the oval fossa using devices inserted on catheters is one such topic. The scientific sessions, and the tea-rooms and the bars, are buzzing with talk about the latest developments with this procedure. We believe that the time is ripe to bring together, in one issue, articles covering all aspects of the technique.

Philipp Bonhoeffer has succeeded in collecting together a comprehensive series of original and commissioned articles that present the contemporary state of the art of the anatomy and imaging of the atrial septum, and the devices and techniques of transcatheter occlusion of defects in the oval fossa. He introduces them in his editorial. We hope this issue will be of value to both the committed interventionist, who wants a comprehensive overview of the procedure, and also the general paediatric cardiologist, who refers patients for the procedure and who counsels children and their families about the advantages and disadvantages of the procedure compared to surgical closure.

I first identified this topic as one on which we should focus while associate editor of *Pediatric Cardiology*. Before the idea of a dedicated issue was brought to fruition, I became executive editor of *Cardiology in the Young*, and Philipp Bonhoeffer agreed to guest edit for this journal. I am very grateful to him, and his authors, for coping with this transition without complaint. Looking at this issue, it certainly justifies the choice of topic, but mostly its success bears witness to the hard work of our guest editor and authors over the last year in preparing it. Many thanks to all who have contributed.

We hope this will be the first of a series of themed issues to appear over the next few years. We are already considering topics on which to focus for the next one, but we would welcome suggestions from our readers. If you think you know of subjects that would benefit from this approach, please let us know. Write to us, or contact us via the journal internet forum at [www.greenwich-medical.co.uk](http://www.greenwich-medical.co.uk).

While this issue is themed, it is not devoted exclusively on the chosen topic. We have also included related articles on growth after the Fontan procedure and cavopulmonary connections, and a fascinating case report describing a rare case of ascariasis. So even if you do not wish to read about occlusion of atrial septal defects, we hope you will find these of interest. This year has seen a marked increase in the number of articles of good quality submitted to the journal. As always, we will endeavour to ensure that they are reviewed efficiently, and that those accepted are published expeditiously.

*Edward Baker*  
*Executive Editor*