
Future of the *Psychiatric Bulletin*

Tom Fahy

This month sees a change in editorship of the *Bulletin* following Dr Alan Kerr's highly successful tenure. During his five years as sole editor of the *Bulletin*, Dr Kerr has presided over major improvements in quality and administration of the publication. The new editorial board is intent on further changes to improve the quality and readability of the *Bulletin*.

The *Bulletin* will continue to be directed primarily at clinical psychiatrists. The *Bulletin* will aim to publish material which is of practical relevance in the treatment of patients and management of clinical services. This is a broad agenda, which has in the past included original scientific papers, reviews, news, opinion pieces and musings. The core of the journal will continue to be the original papers. We aim to attract high-quality, clinically-oriented original papers, and for this reason we will be undertaking some changes in the refereeing and presentation of these papers. We want to broaden our range of referees, and encourage readers who are interested in refereeing for the *Bulletin* to nominate themselves. Like the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, we will be aiming to respond to 80% of authors within two months of submission. All future submissions must include a structured abstract, including a category for clinical relevance of study findings. We will continue our efforts to have the *Bulletin* included in a range of scientific indexing systems. Our success in this regard will depend on the standard of published articles. As we have an extensive backlog of papers awaiting publication, the *Bulletin* is in a position to be more selective. This will have the

added benefit of shortening the delay between acceptance and publication.

The *Bulletin* will preserve its distinctive personality. The *Bulletin* will continue to publish editorials and opinion pieces. Indeed, in the current turmoil affecting psychiatric patients and clinicians in the UK, it is vital that the *Bulletin* provides a source of topical information, analysis and critical commentary on political, legal and social issues relevant to our profession.

Over the past two years the *Bulletin* has been publishing a series of articles, edited by David Taylor, on practical pharmacotherapy. This series has been well received, and will be continued. Similar good practice updates and guidelines are to be commissioned.

In an effort to improve accessibility and readability, the style and layout of the *Bulletin* is under constant review. The cover design has been modernised, but more substantial changes to the publication would be desirable. Such changes have financial implications, and the question of funding, e.g. through advertising, is being explored.

The *Bulletin* has a strong editorial board, with members drawn from different specialities and levels of seniority within the profession. However, it is important that we receive feedback and suggestions from our readers and prospective authors. Are you satisfied with the *Bulletin*, and what changes would you like to see in the future?

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