

# Editorial



Dear Reader

I don't know about you, but for me the thrill of the Perseverance rover landing on Mars was a welcome relief from the constant gloom and doom of CV19. I still feel a thrill when I think about the amazing images and videos of Perseverance waving its robotic arms about. Those images sent from millions of miles away were incredible and real evidence of human ingenuity! One of its cameras is even named Sherlock/Watson, which is just delightful. However, after watching the landing, it was back to CV19 on planet Earth. Luckily we can seek comfort from some positive reports. The percentage of the UK population now vaccinated is extremely impressive, as are all the other statistics that define our imminent social freedom. The lockdown roadmap has been announced, following which pubs have received record bookings for April onwards and some European countries plan to permit UK visitors from May with a vaccine passport. So, time for a sigh of relief. In the BMJ recently the React 2 study reported one in seven people in England now have antibodies. Hopefully the easing of lockdown will go to plan and our lives will be restored, I think with intense optimism.

So what next? Returning to normal work – normal as we knew it – will be a shock to our system. Many of us have become used to working from home, staring endlessly at screens. We have also become used to wearing masks and keeping our distance from each other. To lose the face mask, to breathe and greet people will be a welcome change.

In the midst of CV19, the argument rages on about the unacceptable NHS pay rise offer by the government, but on a philosophical level, what is an appropriate salary increment for offering your life to save others? Reports about PPE and government contracts also make for interesting reading, while the information out there about waiting times for surgery and the quality of care given for head and cancer patients over the last 12 months is sobering. CV19 will have wide-ranging unintended consequences, despite the NHS' extraordinary effort in these unprecedented times. But it appears it is time to rethink again the delivery of services for the future.

Irrespective of any crises, the MBMJ continues to evolve and progress and from March 2021, we will be utilising the full capabilities of the online publishing portal/platform by Open Journal Systems. My dream of a site for not only publishing the journal but also to manage submissions and the editorial process has now materialised thanks to the hard work of Paul and Ondrej. All submissions from now on will have to be at this site – [www.mbmj.co.uk](http://www.mbmj.co.uk). The instructions to authors and peer review checklist have been updated and search functionality has also been added to the site. Please note, the main change for submissions is that authors need to include the digital object identifier (DOI) to references if there is one. The Wiley website also includes resources for aspiring authors. It has recently added two excellence resources called *Mistakes to avoid when submitting your article* and *Generate the maximum impact for your work*. We hope our work here at the MBMJ will have an impact too – and could even be accessed via an app in the future.

The Spring issue includes a letter to the editor, a review of histological melanoma diagnosis and proposal of a novel Lancaster depth, discussion regarding outcome measures survey of all therapists in the Trust; both acute and community and two book reviews. There are articles from the community, ophthalmology, an update on sinusitis and sadly obituaries as well. There is an additional note regarding the book *Anne, Faith and Hope*.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Alison Sambrook to the Editorial Board. She has been a diligent peer reviewer for a considerable while.

A final reminder; that with immediate effect; submissions have to be on the MBMJ online portal. An email acknowledging receipt will be generated immediately. All authors will be able to track the progress of their papers and proof reading will be contoured better.

Thank you for your continued support – please assist us further by continuing to circulate the journal and sending in submissions.

THANHS for reading,

Shadaba Ahmed, Editor