

# EDITORIAL

September always evokes memories of the end of summer and that back to school or college feeling. This year we've enjoyed some of the hottest days on record and the papers have been filled with pictures of crowds at the seaside. But has the fine weather been a one-off event or is there a gradual climate change occurring? Certainly there has been a downside to the hot weather, as we have read about thousands of elderly people dying in France. In this issue John Whittaker, Professor of Ecology at Lancaster University, presents Morecambe Bay as an outdoor laboratory measuring the effects of climate change upon the local insect population.

This year, September sees the start of a pilot study as a cohort of medical students from Liverpool University spend their Year 4 in Morecambe Bay. The recent opening of the Education Centre at Lancaster and the redevelopment of the centres in Furness and Westmorland are a timely reminder that it is only one year before we welcome 50 undergraduates to the area. Judging by the two enthusiastic articles from students

who were attached to local medical practices recently, Morecambe Bay will be a popular choice for many undergraduates. A report by Mike Flanagan and Peter Benning describes the latest developments in education in the area. Details are also published in this issue about a new MBMJ undergraduate prize, donated by the Leese Bequest. I hope that our medical students will support this.

There is a strong primary care theme this month with articles on the new GP contract and team-building in practice. John Chippendale has contributed a paper on his experiences in the RAMC.

Finally this issue includes a report from 1964 in which the arguments for a medical school in this area are set out. Almost forty years later Morecambe Bay can realise some of the ambitions of our predecessors.

**Peter Dyer**  
**Editor**

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