

EDITORIAL

When Peter Dyer invited me to be guest editor of this special paediatric issue of the journal, I thought it would be child's play. How wrong I was!

My aim was to produce a bumper journal, full of relevant and useful information for all those working with infants and children; indeed a veritable "all you need to know..."

I started off by writing to GP colleagues and asking which topics they would like to see included. I would like to thank those who replied and trust that you will not be disappointed.

My next task was to contact and cajole contributors from a wide field – patients, therapists, nurses, community workers and doctors. As deadlines loomed, articles came flooding in! I am grateful to colleagues for their contributions, some educational, some amusing but informative, and others soul-searching. They give a flavour of the wide range of emotions experienced each day in paediatrics.

I hope that readers will take time to read the letter on page 244 from Elisabetta, a former colleague in Lancaster who is now working on the Thailand/Burma border. As she so rightly says "health for all" sounds like a very distant dream for many children. Even in Lancaster, children are not all equal.

Finally a very big thank you to Alison Harry, who has maintained a calm and reassuring atmosphere throughout. This is indeed her last issue of the MBMJ, and I am grateful to her successor, Alan Hale, for his final touches.

Thank you Peter for an interesting challenge!

Monica Placzek
Guest Editor

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