The Community Eye Health Journal: twenty years on

A word from former and present Editors

DD Murray McGavin
Editor 1988–2003

Many years ago, in Central Asia, the Journal was ‘given to me to do’ – and the first issue was published in 1988. In 2003, after reaching Issue 47, the fulfilling task of Editor was handed on to a very able and experienced colleague, Victoria Francis. In 2007, Elmien Wolvaardt Ellison became our third Editor, bringing a wealth of expertise to further enhance the original vision and purpose of the Journal.

Through the role of Editor, I have had the opportunity and privilege of meeting and working with many colleagues and friends, truly an international community of health professionals who have sufficient vision and selfless purpose to work together, seeking to eliminate avoidable blindness worldwide.

During the past twenty years, the Community Eye Health Journal has sought to provide a service to health workers – not only to specialists, but to those who are simply ‘faced with eye problems’ – ophthalmologists, doctors, ophthalmic nurses, general nurses, optometrists, refractionists, ophthalmic medical assistants, ophthalmic technicians, community health workers, and many others.

It has been the ethos and purpose of the Journal from the outset to bring health workers up to date with current thinking and practice – a process of continuing medical education series in the Journal, which are taught at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, as an educational series in the Journal (with some questions/tasks for Continuing Professional Development). This will be in the form of a four-page spread in the centre of the Journal, which readers can take out and keep. It will appear in every issue from 2010 until 2015.

We hope that some readers will cut these out of ‘boxes’ in the Journal, where we summarise key points and procedures as bulleted lists. We will also keep striving to not just provide eye care information, but to provide information in a form that readers can immediately understand and use. Readers will have noticed an increase in the number of issues where we summarise key points and procedures as bulleted lists. We hope that some readers will cut these out and keep them handy, so they can refer to them during the course of their work – or use them to educate colleagues and students.

Elmien Wolvaardt Ellison
Editor since 2007

What I wanted to say about the future of the Journal is that we hope to remain a reliable source of information and continue professional education for eye care workers who would otherwise not have access to such resources. Some news is that we will be adapting key parts of the curriculum of the MSc in Community Eye Health, which is taught at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, as an educational series in the Journal (with some questions/tasks for Continuing Professional Development). This will be in the form of a four-page spread in the centre of the Journal, which readers can take out and keep. It will appear in every issue from 2010 until 2015. We will also keep striving to not just provide eye care information, but to provide information in a form that readers can immediately understand and use. Readers will have noticed an increase in the number of issues where we summarise key points and procedures as bulleted lists. We hope that some readers will cut these out and keep them handy, so they can refer to them during the course of their work – or use them to educate colleagues and students.

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