

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of *Physiotherapy Practice and Research* (formerly *Physiotherapy Ireland*), the Official Journal of the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists. It is perhaps worthwhile setting out our aims and vision for *Physiotherapy Practice and Research* at the outset. The primary aim of the journal is to 'advance physiotherapy practice and research through scholarly publication'. Stated simply, our aim is that *Physiotherapy Practice and Research* will be used by physiotherapists to help them develop, improve and enhance their clinical practice and thereby improve the outcomes for their patients or clients. We also hope that *Physiotherapy Practice and Research* will not only play a role in advancing physiotherapy practice but also in advancing the profession. We recognise that the physiotherapy profession continues to evolve and while it can be assumed that physiotherapists will always practice in the traditional clinical areas, many are stretching the boundaries of the profession. *Physiotherapy Practice and Research* will support and advocate for the continued development of the profession. It should also be remembered that physiotherapy clinical practice does not take place in a vacuum; services need to be managed, students need to be educated and we are all too aware of the pressing need to enhance the evidence base for clinical practice.

Therefore *Physiotherapy Practice and Research* will publish material to support all areas of practice. It is our vision that the Official Journal of the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists will become recognised as a high quality, international, peer-reviewed physiotherapy journal that supports physiotherapists in their practice and publishes quality research that underpins that practice.

To help us achieve this vision, *Physiotherapy Practice and Research* is supported by a highly respected international editorial board. Our editorial board is testament to the collegiality that is the academic community and the physiotherapy family in particular – demonstrated by the readiness with which these esteemed colleagues, from around the world, agreed to lend their expertise and reputation in support of our journal and its development. In thanking these colleagues I am reminded of the lines by Seamus Heaney:

*'.....now he must hold his hand
Like a branch out in the sun and rain for weeks
Until the young are hatched and fledged and flown'*

Dr. Joseph G. McVeigh
Editor-in-Chief