

## Editorial

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Welcome to this issue of *Physiotherapy Practice and Research*. I am delighted to report that our journal has been accepted into Scopus. This is a major achievement and a further recognition of the increasing quality of the journal. Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature in the world, giving our journal and authors truly international reach. In accepting *Physiotherapy Practice and Research* the Scopus Evaluation Team commented that, 'There is clearly evidence of citations in other Scopus journals and there is clearly evidence of editorial innovation and direction.' The current issue, I hope, continues to present readers with papers that will inform, stimulate and challenge them.

Falls among older people remain a major issue for physiotherapists, as Power and colleagues report in their paper, approximately one-third of those aged 65 years and over fall each year, which results in significant morbidity and mortality. Power et al's review sets out to identify the best task-based assessment tools for predicting falls among community-dwelling older adults, which could be used to assist in clinical decision-making and the targeting of falls prevention interventions. These authors reported that there was strong evidence to support the use of the Timed Up-and-Go test, Five Times Sit-to-Stand test and assessments of gait speed to predict falls among older people in the clinical setting. As Power et al conclude, incorporating the recommended assessment tools as part of a comprehensive assessment should improve patient care.

Continuing with the theme of falls prevention, Madigan et al. present a survey of bone health and falls prevention exercise programmes in primary care in Ireland. It is somewhat reassuring to note that there appears to be national coverage of this service, however, Madigan et al. have identified a number of limitations to the service and have identified areas for service development. Hopefully those in positions of

responsibility for bone health and falls prevention will take cognisance of the work by Madigan et al.

One of the aims of *Physiotherapy Practice and Research* is to publish material that will inform and advance clinical practice. Ashmore et al. report the findings of a prospective audit of 140 patients attending a 'Knee Screening Clinic' over a 13 month period. The Extended Scope Physiotherapist (ESP) independently managed almost 60% of patients, and of the 40% referred for orthopaedic opinion, 84% underwent surgery. This paper by Ashmore and colleagues adds to the weight of evidence that, given their unique skills, physiotherapists are ideally placed to take on advanced and extended clinical roles.

Reflecting the increasing internationalisation of *Physiotherapy Practice and Research* this issue includes papers from colleagues in Canada and Nigeria, in addition to contributions from colleagues in the UK. Obembe et al. present their findings from a cross sectional study exploring the relationship between fatigue and gait and balance in 70 stroke survivors. Fatigue is often seen as a 'Cinderella symptom' yet has a major impact on people with chronic conditions. This work by Obembe et al. is to be welcomed and starts to unpick the complex relationship between fatigue and functional activities in those living with chronic conditions. Those interested in pain and the challenges of sensory testing should find the review by Uddin et al. of interest.

Those of us actively involved in research understand the importance of well-designed and well-conducted pilot studies. Good pilot work can be crucial to the outcome of future research by answering critical questions related to, for example, recruitment and attrition rates, the acceptability of interventions or simple logistical problems, which may not be apparent until tested. The pilot study reported by Moffatt and Flynn, is an exemplar of how a pilot study should be done, I wish them well in bringing their work forward. The study by

O'Donoghue et al explored the content of the undergraduate physiotherapy curriculum in Ireland, with respect to the delivery of physical activity and exercise promotion and prescription for healthy and clinical populations. This is an extremely important and evolving area of physiotherapy practice that competes with more traditional areas of practice to find space in, some would argue, an already packed curriculum. The work by O'Donoghue et al. is a reminder, and perhaps a challenge to the profession, of the need for greater integration of illness prevention and health promotion into physiotherapy practice and education.

I am sure you will join with me in welcoming Drs Coote, Fullen, and O'Sullivan to their new roles as Associate Editors, I am delighted to be able to draw on their considerable expertise as Physiotherapy Practice and Research continues to grow.

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