



infant

for neonatal and paediatric
healthcare professionals

The time is right for a new multidisciplinary journal

The roles of staff working within neonatal and paediatric units are changing and evolving. Advanced neonatal nurse practitioners and nurse consultants are taking on many of the roles traditionally held by doctors, thus enhancing the delivery, quality and continuity of care. The reduction of junior doctors' working hours will only increase this trend.

The survival of more very low birthweight babies linked with increasing technology means that these infants often require extended care and may remain within the neonatal intensive care unit for several weeks and even months. All staff need therefore to be knowledgeable regarding the developmental and emotional needs of older babies and of support for the parents who are often on a roller coaster of emotion. The welcome event when the infant goes home often demands differing skills for the whole team in supporting parents and the family to cope, especially when the infant requires on-going treatment e.g. with oxygen, and in working with community care colleagues such as health visitors. Other babies are admitted to the paediatric ward or intensive care unit, often as a result of a medical or surgical emergency. It seems appropriate therefore that this new publication should focus on the first year of life, thus helping to overcome boundaries and provide a seamless web of care for this important client group.

The aim of *Infant* is to provide clinically based, practical papers covering topics of interest to both neonatal and paediatric staff caring for babies. The journal will also provide a professional forum for discussion and debate thus enabling readers to exchange ideas and share views on 'hot topics'. The hope is that all members of the multidisciplinary team, including parents, will wish to participate from time to time.

I am delighted to welcome Barbara Weller as the Nursing Editor and Professor Anne Greenough as Medical Editor to *Infant*. Together with a distinguished editorial board they will ensure that all articles published will

be factual, topical and relevant.

As well as publishing authoritative papers written by experts in their field we want to include people focused articles. In this issue Diane Rogers from Shrewsbury Neonatal Unit tells us about the holistic therapy the unit offers to staff and parents alike to combat stress. She also describes innovative fund raising for their parent support group. If your unit is doing something special we'd love to hear from you to share with our readers. Please also share with us details of future events, study days, conferences and courses that you would like to promote to a wider audience.

As publisher I should like to thank the article contributors to this issue – Grenville Fox and Uma Sothinathan, Jane Hawdon, Stephanie Wentworth, Melanie Mears and Shelley Chalmers – who all agreed at very short notice to write an article for a journal that they had never heard of! Many thanks for your faith in us, without you we would have no journal. I should also like to welcome all subscribers to the journal as a new venture.

Most of the articles in *Infant* will be commissioned but if anyone out there is burning to write for the journal I would be happy to hear from you. Finally I do hope that you will enjoy reading *Infant* and I look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions about what you think and importantly how it can be improved. Feedback is most welcome.

Christine

Christine Bishop
Publisher