



Anthony Emmerson



Nicholas Embleton

All change at *Infant*

It is with some sadness that I report that Anthony Emmerson has decided to step down as Medical Editor of *Infant* journal after seven year's sterling service. Anthony has guided and advised the journal from its 'infancy' into the mature journal that it is today, functioning originally as a board member for the first two and a half years and then taking on the responsibility of the medical editorship. He has provided invaluable input and been very generous with his time, especially as his 'day' job as Consultant Neonatologist at St Mary's Hospital Manchester has meant that he has very little time to spare.

His innovative approach to neonatal practice is typified by the fact that as Clinical Director of Neonatal Services at St Mary's he introduced new working patterns providing 24-hour resident consultant cover for neonatal medical and surgical intensive care, with advanced neonatal nurse practitioners providing high dependence and special care support. This system significantly improved patient safety and quality of care for all newborn infants. St Mary's was the first hospital in the country to implement this practice, which is now working very well.

Anthony also functioned as the past clinical lead for Greater Manchester Neonatal Network. During this time he was neonatal lead for the 'Making it Better' reconfiguration of obstetric, neonatal and paediatric services in Greater Manchester, which remains the biggest reorganisation of clinical services to date. He was responsible for increasing the number of NICUs in Greater Manchester while also reducing the number of local neonatal units, thus concentrating expertise and improving care for vulnerable neonates.

Currently he is Head of the School of Paediatrics Health Education North West; he sits on the NICE Interventional Procedures Advisory Committee and the NICE Appeals Committee; he is Associate Clinical Advisor to the Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman; and he is leading a research team studying vitamin D levels in healthy newborn infants born to light-skinned mothers in the North West of England at 28 weeks, birth and four months. So he certainly isn't planning to retire just yet. We would like to thank him for his unstinting support of the journal and wish him all the best for the future.

However it is not all bad news, because I am delighted to announce that Nick Embleton has agreed to take up the role of Medical Editor. Having served just over a year on the editorial board Nick is now keen to get more involved in the running of the journal, seeing *Infant* as an

ideal vehicle for promoting and sharing good practice in neonatal care.

Nick qualified in medicine from Newcastle in 1990 and started his paediatric training in Newcastle the following year. He undertook a period of research training between 1997-1999 in Newcastle, focusing on the nutrient needs of preterm infants. After a neonatal-perinatal fellowship in Vancouver, Canada between 2000-2001 he returned to Newcastle and took up his consultant post in neonatal medicine in 2003.

Nick has continued to develop his research interests across a broad portfolio of studies. He acted as the principal investigator for a series of NIHR portfolio studies (ADEPT, BOOST II and I2S2) and more recently with SIFT – a randomised controlled trial of feeding rates in preterm infants (very proudly recruiting the 1,000th baby himself to the trial after his research fellow and nurses had carried out all the hard work). He is also helping to organise ELFIN – a randomised trial of supplemental lactoferrin – which will commence later this summer and ultimately involve around 30 UK neonatal units.

Nick helps coordinate a range of other studies run out of Newcastle along with his colleagues on the neonatal unit and at the local universities. Broadly these fit into three themes:

- investigating the long-term metabolic and cognitive outcome of preterm infants, tracking a cohort of infants from his original research studies until 16-18 years of age.
- understanding the mechanics of gut function, necrotising enterocolitis and microbial colonisation.
- performing qualitative studies of parental perspectives on withdrawal of intensive care support, and more recently, exploring parental experiences when a twin dies (and the other survives).

Nick is passionate about the importance of research and its potential to improve the outcome for premature babies. He believes that research and service development should be seen as a core part of neonatal care, and not just as some sort of 'extra' performed by others. In his role as Medical Editor, one of Nick's aims is to try and persuade readers of *Infant* of the importance of their involvement in research. We welcome Nick's enthusiasm and look forward to putting his ideas into practice in the future.

Christine Bishop

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Publisher