



Annual Report: Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Annual General Meeting, 8 June 2007

Child and Adolescent Mental Health has reached an exciting stage in its development where it has left behind its earlier formative years and is entering the next phase in its progress towards maturity. Its reputation as a professional journal, bridging the academic and practitioner divide and balancing policy, evidence and service has been reinforced over the past twelve months, and its increasing role as a resource to both scholars and practitioners consolidated.

This transition from infant to youth forms part of the natural process in the life-cycle of a journal. For myself and my fellow editors, the last year has offered the opportunity to review development and re-visit direction, recognize achievements and appraise performance. Above all, it has given us the courage to look more creatively at the journal - toss around ideas, debate the future, resolve change. Many of the ideas rode on the back of strategic discussions on the direction of CAMH, its potential for an international presence, its target audience and its focus. These important discussions re-captured the defining strengths of CAMH - strengths which lie in the quality of the "mix" of articles, in the way its clinical content complements that of the scientific JCPP, the way it addresses the multi-disciplinary needs of practitioners and the way it continues to offer an essential resource to the greater majority of ACAMH members. For all these reasons, it was agreed that the focus of CAMH would remain true to its original aims and objectives, with a predominately UK-CAMHS focus, a clinically-oriented and evidence-base selection of papers and an international relevance reflected in the scope of articles published.

Along with careful selection of Original and Commissioned Articles, CAMH Editors have continued to evolve the journal's special sections to reflect the more specific needs of the developing community. The last twelve months have witnessed the phasing out of Journal Monitor and the introduction of Innovations in Practice, which are designed to share knowledge on new and interesting developments and innovative aspects of practice or services responsive to need and changing circumstances. Earlier this year the Practitioners' Toolkit was launched, which aims to review a wide range of resources that could be helpful for busy child mental health practitioners working in a variety of service settings in a wide range of countries.

Over the year, two Special CAMH Issues have been worked on: "Guidelines in Practice", which is a collection of high-quality papers examining how practitioners, researchers and services are responding to the growing numbers of standard frameworks for child mental health disorders and "International CAMH" which pulls together child and adolescent mental health issues from across the world in a selection of papers from Pakistan, Brazil, Nigeria, Greece, Norway and Germany.

Rates of submissions remain healthy (93 in 2006 compared with 65 in 2005) and the continued success of OnlineEarly has encouraged submissions from authors eager to benefit from the swift turn-around time from acceptance to publication. The recent addition of online legacy files, providing access to all back-issues of the journal, will become available by the end of 2007 and be free of charge to ACAMH members. E-circulation of the content of each issue of CAMH has further promoted awareness and plans are underway to include abstracts. Readership figures have improved impressively, with institutional subscriptions up 11% on last year and downloads of CAMH articles up by 28%, indicating increasing recognition of CAMH as one of the leading journals promoting evidence based practice and publishing clear, accessible and scholarly papers from national and international contributors.

CAMH's impressive performance over the last 12 months is a tribute to the hard work of all those who are involved with the journal. I would like to thank my fellow editors, in particular Professor Panos Vostanis, who stood down as Lead Editor in January of this year – his special mix of commitment, enthusiasm and hard work will be missed. Professor Jacqueline Barnes, who completes her first year as Editor, has become an integral and strong member of the team and we are fortunate to welcome Dr Tamsin Ford who will join us later this year. Special thanks go as ever, to the publications team based in the London head office, who work tirelessly to ensure the journal runs smoothly and on schedule, and who continue to provide effective support to us all.

Professor Paul Stallard