

## **MSJ 2018** – editorial comment

Each year, as we reflect on the journal's activities, there is a sense of achievement, teamwork and an appreciation of our enthusiastic editorial board. This year is no exception and the highlight of the year was undoubtedly the entertaining and highly productive editorial board meeting in Paris. Despite a packed agenda we managed to have lively discussion and subsequently very helpful suggestions around recruitments and topics, which we are now in the process of putting in place. We have also had the great news that MSJ-ETC is now indexed in PubMed.

MSJ and MSJ-ETC aim to be topical, thought-provoking and informative and, alongside our research papers, the Topical Reviews, Controversies and clinical commentaries do this by providing up-to date, concise information, challenging views and interesting clinical insights. The sheer range of topics and opinions is impressive and we would like to thank Martin Duddy for all his work on the Topical Reviews over the last four years – he has produced over 50 reviews and is now stepping down for a well-earned break (and to take on other activities). Jeroen Geurts is also stepping down as co-editor of the controversies which he has done so ably with Ruth Ann Marrie for an equally long period of time. He is, however, continuing in his role as deputy Editor. We are discussing potential new members of the team and have had a number of very helpful suggestions from the editorial board.

Another highlight of the year has been our themed issue, which we are planning to do each year. The 2017 issue focussed on a meeting in Rome around the clinical trials in progressive MS. It was guest edited by Bob Fox and Jeremy Chataway who did a great job bringing a really informative series of papers together on one of the

most challenging areas in the world of MS

(<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/msja/23/12>). The fact that the Progressive MS Alliance made this entire issue open access helped to increase its availability - it has been downloaded over 7,000 times since publication. We began this year with another themed issue edited by Ben Segal and Jeff Cohen entitled Environmental Factors, Genetics and Epigenetics in MS Susceptibility and Clinical Course and based on last year's ACTRIMS meeting (<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/msja/24/1>). This was also open access thanks to ACTRIMS generosity. We already have a themed issue lined up for 2019 edited by Jaume Sastre and Peter Feys. Finally, MSJ-ETC published an special issue on the challenges and opportunities of MS care in Latin America (<http://journals.sagepub.com/page/mso/collections/special-issue-ms-in-latin-america>) guest edited by Daniel Ontaneda and Jorge Correale.

We have also planned two new series of Insights for 2018 following Maria Pia Sormani's very successful series on statistics in MS studies last year. We will begin with a series of insights on the interesting but complex area of Epigenetics written by Phil De Jager and his team and this will be followed later in the year by a series from Sergio Baranzini on the equally interesting topic of the microbiome in MS.

Needless to say, original contributions remain at the heart of the journal and the willingness of so many to be reviewers ensures the best possible selection of papers with optimal presentation of their content. We recognize the disappointment when papers are rejected; we would welcome any suggestions as to how to improve the process. We encourage all our readers to keep sending in their contributions to us.

During the month of February we, the editors, will meet in London to review progress, agree the recruitment of new members to the editorial team and the

editorial board. We do so in the sure knowledge that the journal is in a strong and vibrant place but aware that there is no room for complacency in this highly competitive space particularly given the pace of development in MS.

It only remains for us to thank all the team both within Sage and at our local bases for all their work on the journal and to wish everyone a peaceful, prosperous and productive new year.