2010

Another publication year has come to an end and I note with pleasure the diversity of papers that have been submitted over the course of the past year. The papers are of particular interest to the medical community in the Maltese islands. A survey dealing with the aetiology of infectious intestinal disease provides information of relevance to practitioners in Malta. Similarly the increased application of percutaneous coronary interventions has led to fewer referrals to cardiothoracic surgery, with those eventually referred having a higher risk of adverse outcomes. Family practitioners are increasingly facing the challenge of cancer patients being cared for at home and one study looks at the training these doctors will require in order to help ensure that such patients are as comfortable and painfree as possible. The issue of relatives’ and doctors’ attitudes to the regulation of organ retrieval is the subject of another study published in this issue of the Journal and reveals that the trend in Malta is different from that in a number of other countries.

An interesting article on penetrating eye injuries provides an insight into the management of these injuries. Similarly, a case report on primary hyperparathyroidism in pregnancy highlights the management issues in such situations. Finally the life and work of Tomaso Chetcuti in the field of psychiatry in the eighteen hundreds is described in this issue’s historical perspective.

Each issue of the Journal is testimony to the initiative and contribution of the submitting authors, the input of our reviewers, the members of the board, the publishing team and the support of the Dean and the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. I am indebted to all who make the publication of the Journal possible and wish to express my thanks and appreciation for all the hard work they put in.

Josanne Vassallo
Editor

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