

# Editorial

It is with pleasure that I write this short editorial for this issue of the Malta Medical Journal. The Journal once again includes a number of original papers of interest to local medical practice and the community. Cefai et al report on their findings with respect to the dietary habits of Maltese University students and highlight the need for improvements with respect to implementing better adherence to a healthy diet. Antibiotic consumption levels in the Maltese Islands between 2007 to 2009 are analysed by Zarb et al. They identify a worrying trend for a continuing escalation in antibiotic use in the community which serves to promote antibiotic resistance. This article should serve to increase awareness of these important issues and serve as a catalyst to change practice.

Vella et al report on the positive impact of breast feeding in the prevention of Infantile Hypertrophic Pyloric Stenosis in concordance with observations made in centres abroad. Local practices in the prescription, administration and monitoring of oxygen therapy at Mater Dei Hospital are discussed by

Asciak et al and areas identified where further improvement can take place. An interesting case report accentuates the need for increasing vigilance regarding the possibility of long term bisphosphonate therapy leading to 'atypical' subtrochanteric and femoral diaphyseal fractures. Finally Jesty et al address the controversy of who actually invent vaccination in their historical review of the evidence available.

Since circumstances beyond our control have resulted in delays in the publication of the MMJ in hard copy, this issue, like the preceding one, will be available initially online to our readership with the hardcopy following in due course.

The Editorial Board sincerely regrets any inconvenience arising and is working to resolve these problems.

Meanwhile the publication of submitted and accepted papers will continue unabated in order to ensure that studies of significance and importance to local medical practice are disseminated to both medical healthcare professionals and the community in general.

**Josanne Vassallo**  
Editor