

# Evolution of JMCP

**Maria Cordina** B. Pharm (Hons) *Melit.* PhD (QUB)

Email: [president@mcppnet.org](mailto:president@mcppnet.org)

This edition of the Journal of the Malta College of Pharmacy Practice marks it as the first environment friendly paperless edition. The Journal evolved from a humble newsletter called the *Chronic\*ill*. The first newsletter consisted of a total of 16 pages and included 4 educational articles. The first paragraph of the 'Editorial' read as follows: *The Malta College of Pharmacy Practice was officially founded on the 31st July 1996. Prior to this date, The College had been providing continuing education courses for one and a half years on a trial basis.*

The next edition of the newsletter featured a poem by an anonymous author entitled 'I am a pharmacist' which is reproduced on the opposite page of this editorial as it is an elegant description of a pharmacist.

By the summer of 1999 *The Chronic\*ill* evolved into a Journal with a formidable number of continuing education papers, not much different than it is today. Since then the Journal has gone from strength to strength attracting both local and leading international authors from various disciplines. We have always seen this as very positive

since one of our aims has always been to encourage interdisciplinary communication and to enable different professions to understand each other's 'language'. To further commit to this aim the paper edition of the Journal has always been freely distributed to all pharmacists and medical doctors in Malta.

Another of our aims was to encourage our highly capable pharmacists to contribute with papers which were of current relevance to our society. Our objective has always been to respond to the educational needs of pharmacists and other professionals in practice within our healthcare system. We have always welcomed suggestions to improve our Journal and the overall voluntary educational service which we offer.

The website of the Malta College of Pharmacy Practice, [www.mcppnet.org](http://www.mcppnet.org), was first available in 2003 and that year the Journal became freely available on the web transforming it into an open access journal; yet another milestone for both the College and the Journal.

The last issue of the Journal as *The Chronic\*ill* was a special supplement on respiratory disease. Following this issue, in

2005, the *Chronic\*ill* became *The Journal of the Malta College of Pharmacy Practice*. The Journal has attracted papers from all areas of practice and has given a voice to different patient groups. The 2008 issues supported the Pharmacy Council by publishing the Code of Ethics for the Pharmaceutical Profession. The 2007 special issue which focused on nutrition remains highly relevant today and has been recently quoted by the Minister of Education. Our last paper edition, a special issue dedicated to gender in health care, aimed at encouraging practitioners and researchers to integrate gender aspects in their work. This is an area which is being given considerable importance by the European Union as evidenced by the Gendered Innovations project.

We trust that our readers will find the current issue interesting and relevant to their practice.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the editorial board of the Journal of the Malta College of Pharmacy Practice and the Council of The Malta College of Pharmacy Practice for their commitment and dedication to the College.