

## JPHC achieves MEDLINE status

**Felicity Goodyear-Smith** MBChB, MGP,  
FRNZCGP, Editor

**W**e are delighted to announce that the *Journal of Primary Health Care (JPHC)* has been selected by the United States National Library of Medicine (NLM) for inclusion in Index Medicus and MEDLINE. The primary consideration in selecting journals for indexing is the scientific merit of a journal's content. The validity, importance, originality, and contribution to the coverage of the field of the overall contents are key factors considered by the NLM's selection panel in recommending a journal for indexing.

If a journal is published three or more times a year, four issues are needed to apply for indexing. The application to NLM was made in January 2010 based on the first four issues (2009, volume 1, issues 1 to 4). MEDLINE indexing of the *JPHC* has therefore been achieved in the shortest possible time. Throughout its 35 years of publication (1974 to 2008), the *New Zealand Family Physician* was unsuccessful in its bids to be indexed in MEDLINE.<sup>1</sup> One of the drivers for launching the *JPHC* was to create a flagship publication for the RNZCGP that would be internationally recognised as a quality journal and obtain MEDLINE status.

While the editor plays a substantial role, producing a journal is a team effort. This milestone is a formal recognition of the contributions made by the many people who help create the journal—the authors who submit their work, peer reviewers who critique it, members of the editorial board who provide advice and guidance, the College staff who work to produce a first-rate print and online journal and the readers who provide thoughtful feedback. Many thanks to all who have played a part towards us reaching this goal.

MEDLINE is a bibliographic database containing over 18 million references to journal articles in life sciences and biomedicine from about 5000 selected journals. Articles published in MEDLINE-indexed journals can be found using PubMed. Research published in non-MEDLINE journals has little chance of being accessed and quoted by others, hence it is of great value for journals to be indexed in MEDLINE. Indexing will enable readers to search and retrieve all *JPHC* articles including our back issues.

In 2009, Professor Chris van Weel, past President of Wonca, was instrumental in the NLM introducing a new Subject Heading 'Primary Health Care' (including Family Medicine) in Index Medicus and reallocating the journals that focus on primary health care, family medicine and general practice to this subject.<sup>2</sup> This means that the *JPHC* will be categorised alongside leading general practice journals such as *Annals of Family Medicine*, *Family Practice* and the *British Journal of General Practice*.

Some of our readers still wish for a publication by GPs for GPs, as attested in our *Letters to the Editor*, while others applaud the interdisciplinary approach adopted by the *JPHC*. This issue certainly continues with our cross-specialty approach. Authors include GPs and other medical practitioners, nurses, psychologists, pharmacists, epidemiologists and other assorted researchers and academics and cover a broad spectrum of primary health care issues.

Mitchell and colleagues explore whether secondary school decile rating and size of their town of origin has any impact on medical students' subsequent career choices such as rural general practice.<sup>3</sup> There are two studies from the team at

---

**CORRESPONDENCE TO:**  
**Felicity Goodyear-Smith**  
Professor and Goodfellow  
Postgraduate Chair,  
Department of General  
Practice and Primary  
Health Care, The  
University of Auckland,  
PB 92019 Auckland,  
New Zealand  
f.goodyear-smith@  
auckland.ac.nz

the Women's Health Research Centre, Wellington. One describes parents' preferences for where their daughters receive the human papillomavirus vaccine,<sup>4</sup> and the other assesses the feasibility of opportunistic incentivised chlamydia screening of young adults attending general practice.<sup>5</sup> There is a study which investigates possible reasons for why Maori have lower reported levels of diagnosis and treatment of depression compared with non-Maori,<sup>6</sup> and another looking at the various factors which influence whether Samoan patients adhere to taking long-term medications.<sup>7</sup> Two companion papers look at practitioner perceptions of collaborative medication reviews from the perspective of the community pharmacist<sup>8</sup> and from that of the GP.<sup>9</sup> Finally an audit explores whether specific nurse-led clinics can reduce health disparities in children living in deprived areas.<sup>10</sup>

Are there any circumstances where it is acceptable for doctors to assist terminally ill patients seeking a more rapid end to their lives? In this issue of *Back to Back*, psychologist Glynn Owen argues that sometimes a case can be made for physician-assisted suicide, while palliative care physician Rod MacLeod contends that this is never an option in a humane society. In our ethics column, Vanya Kovach explores whether there are any circumstances in which it is acceptable to tell 'work stories'—to discuss anonymised aspects of patient consultations in non-medical settings.<sup>11</sup>

Our regular features include a *Cochrane Corner* which outlines the effectiveness of topical nasal decongestants, the *String of PEARLS* is about otitis media, tonsillitis and adenoid hypertrophy, and *Charms and Harms* looks at the efficacy and safety of noni, a Pacific Island plant which is often touted as a panacea.

Finally, *Gems of New Zealand* gives academics who publish primary health care-related research in other journals the opportunity to promote and disseminate their work in the *JPHC*. To have your studies included, merely send us a 100 word summary of your paper (not the abstract), the full reference details and the email of the corresponding author. This will spread knowledge of your work among your target audience—New Zealand primary health care practitioners.

## References

1. Townsend T. Editing the NZFP. *NZ Fam Physician*. 2008;35(6):16–8.
2. van Weel C. 'Primary Health Care' as Subject Heading in Index Medicus. *WONCA News*. 2009;35(6):4.
3. Mitchell C, Clinton J, Shulruf B, Poole P. Relationship between decile score of secondary school, the size of town of origin and career intentions of New Zealand medical students. *J Primary Health Care*. 2010;2(3):183–9.
4. Rose S, Lawton B, Lanumata T, Hibma M, Baker M. HPV/cervical cancer vaccination: parental preferences on age, place and information needs. *J Primary Health Care*. 2010;2(3):190–8.
5. Lawton B, Rose S, Elley C, Bromhead C, McDonald J, Baker M. Increasing the uptake of opportunistic chlamydia screening: a pilot study in general practice. *J Primary Health Care*. 2010;2(3):199–207.
6. Thomas D, B A, Arroll B, Elder H. General practitioners' views about diagnosing and treating depression in Maori and non-Maori patients. *J Primary Health Care*. 2010;2(3):208–16.
7. Wai K, Elley C, Nosa V, Kennelly J, Mabotuwana T, Warren J. Perspectives on adherence to blood pressure-lowering medications among Samoan patients: qualitative interviews. *J Primary Health Care*. 2010;2(3):217–24.
8. Bryant L, Coster G, McCormick R. Community pharmacist perceptions of clinical medication reviews. *J Primary Health Care*. 2010;2(3):234–42.
9. Bryant L, Coster G, McCormick R. General practitioner perceptions of clinical medication reviews undertaken by community pharmacists. *J Primary Health Care*. 2010;2(3):225–33.
10. Riley C, Crawford R. Reducing health disparities for low decile children and families: a nurse-led response. *J Primary Health Care*. 2010;2(3):243–8.
11. Kovach V. Work stories. *J Primary Health Care*. 2010;2(3):256–8.