

# Editorial

**Mike Howell**  
**Surgeon Captain RN**  
**MOIC INM and Editor, JRNMS**

These really are exciting times for the Journal, and I am sure that all readers will agree with me that both the quantity and quality of submissions have shown sustained improvement over the last couple of years, to the extent that our publication is now more frequently referred to by its proper title than as the 'Guffers' Gazette'. These improvements have been driven by my strong team of Assistant Editors, ably assisted by Sue Beames, Mark Trasler and Jane Wickenden at INM. I am hugely indebted to all of them for their support. I am pleased to announce that the editorial team is about to expand over the coming months, with Surgeon Captain Jason Smith, Defence Professor of Emergency Medicine, taking over from me as Editor in Chief, with a small group of Surgeon Commanders taking over the work that has been done by Surgeon Commander Rik Coetzee, who has become the lynchpin of the Journal. Quite how things will be organised in future is yet to be decided, but watch this space!

Turning my attention to the current edition, the highlights include our Special Feature on Operation GRITROCK, the operation to combat Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa. At the time of writing this editorial, Sierra Leone has just been officially pronounced to be free of Ebola Virus Disease, due in no small part to the efforts of the UK military. You will note that only a minority of the authors in this series are Medical Officers, with articles being contributed by Nurses, Biomedical Scientists, Medical Assistants, and a Royal Marines Bandsman, amongst others. I find this hugely encouraging, as I feel that it is vital for the Journal to extend its readership beyond the RN Medical Officer cadre. On a similar note, there is a small series of articles describing the medical planning and other aspects of the Dhaulagiri Himalayan expedition, with authors coming from our sister Services. Once again, I hope to build on this in the future as we cement the Journal's place as an entry-

level publication focused primarily, but not exclusively, on maritime medicine in its widest sense.

As well as the special feature, there are excellent review articles on topics as varied as unexplained collapse, seizures and abdominal hernias, which will be of great utility to our deployed personnel. There is also a timely review of the current thinking on the use of tourniquets, greatly informed by recent operational experience in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a fascinating article on tick bites.

Our Service News section should have something of interest to everybody, and I am sure that many will find the current Red List a valuable resource, even though it does of necessity go out of date by the time it is published.

Finally, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that all articles published throughout the one hundred years that the JRNMS has been in existence are now available in full, for free, on the Journal's website, [www.jrnms.com](http://www.jrnms.com). This places us in an outstanding position for the future, ahead of many of our rivals, and should help to make our archive infinitely more accessible. This achievement is the culmination of a huge amount of hard work by several of my Assistant Editors, Surg Lt Cdrs Jowan Penn-Barwell (concept), Matt O'Shea (grant application), and Donald Angus (information technology), enabled by a grant kindly provided by the Wellcome Trust, which funded the digitisation project. I would urge all readers to visit the website and explore our history. A guide to how to access articles via the website follows this Editorial.

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