

Editorial

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Do you ever wonder who reads editorials? What are editorials for? What do they do? These are challenges I've faced in writing this editorial. We are a new journal, this being the second issue, and we congratulate all contributors of the launch issue with a huge "well done"!

Occupational Health lives in several worlds: nursing, medical, public health, environment, ergonomics, safety, and business- which includes finance, legal issues, human resources, management, just to name a few. We therefore operate in a complex environment, and we bring our own skills, training from the disciplines we grew from.

This means that no one practitioner can possess all the skills, and there is realisation that the same applies in organisations which has led to partnerships and collaboration at organisational level.

In the United Kingdom, the application of Health and Safety law has led to a trend of in house Safety professionals, and fewer and fewer in house Occupational Health professionals. Outsourced Occupational Health professionals are managed by predominantly Safety professionals. I believe the time has come for rebalancing this imbalance, as primary care skills should not be undervalued. An Occupational Health Nurse is hard wired with skills in speaking, understanding, communicating difficult issues with patients which is translated into an occupational health setting. Few other professionals acquire these skills wrapped up in training in other disciplines.

If the UK trend persists, then Occupational Health Professionals must continue to equip themselves with what industries want, or learn to partner or collaborate with other professionals.

So what kind of training? For a start, Safety. But if this goes against our natural grain, here is a list of lectures/conferences, extracted from a leading reputable organisation, to be held in the next months: for example:

Innovations in the delivery of care for older people.

National population data tell us the number of older people will rise. We expect that more people will be at work past our current retirement ages.

Developing compassionate leadership through mindfulness.

Mindfulness is now considered by leadership, and should provoke us into considering how we can enhance our practice.

International digital health and care congress

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This congress will “... explore how the innovative use of technology is supporting improvements in the care of people with long term conditions and other health and social care needs”

Self Care in the digital age

As nations move towards innovations and technology, we too need to move with the times, or get left behind.

Integrated Care Summit

This is yet another example of this movement towards integration, of improving use of resources, and to be more effective in provision of care.

June is mid year and a good time for self audit. What has happened to our resolutions made in the new year? Were they mostly personal resolutions concerning lifestyle e.g. diet and exercise? Or did we include professional development, keeping pace with developments within and without our current professional disciplines?

The future is ours to innovate.