

Keeping updated

Maria Cordina BPharm (Hons) (Melit) PhD (QUB)

Editor

Email: president@mcppnet.org

In today's exceptionally fast-paced world, one of the main laments that health care professionals have is that they have difficulty finding time to keep up with the barrage of new knowledge available. It is indeed because there is so much new information out there that keeping updated is essential since we are bound to make the best decisions for the optimal health outcomes of our patients.

The Malta College of Pharmacy Practice, which is an autonomous institution and whose council is made up of members who voluntarily dedicate their time to supporting professional development, offers a service to health care professionals by addressing issues of particular relevance to the local situation.

This issue of the Journal is evidence of this. Our opening paper by Cacciottolo addresses an issue of national concern which is very topical, mainly lung health and outdoor air pollution. It is an issue in which we need to be well versed in order to advise our patients. Antibiotic resistance has been addressed on numerous occasions. However this is a subject which requires repeated attention. Mifsud presents a very interesting paper with a very practical approach based on years of experience. Metformin is a drug that has been around for quite some time

yet is being prescribed and dispensed for indications other than that for which is originally licensed. The present paper gives us a comprehensive overview of this.

We are all familiar with the Asian Tiger Mosquito. Melillo traces its entry into Malta, highlights the threat that it poses and provided information on avoidance and management which we should do well to heed. Victor Grech and colleagues once again transport us into the realm of science fiction this time addressing pharmacological contraception in science fiction - a very enjoyable read!

Grupetta presents a highly evidence based review of hypopituitarism. This paper provides solid practice information on diagnosis and management.

Our last contribution by Aquilina provides a showcase of the essential services of extemporaneous compounding that is provided at Mater Dei Hospital. This service provides the medication in the required formulation to both children and adults whose access to medication would otherwise be hampered.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only our authors for their excellent contributions but also our long list of anonymous reviewers whose service ensures the quality of our journal.

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