



GILL ELLIS-POW EDITOR/DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

WELCOME to the first journal of 2018 and I trust everyone had a lovely time over the Festive Season.

I am delighted to announce that as from September 2017 the IDSc Crest is now the Registered Trademark of the IDSc. Any company wishing to use the IDSc logo must request formal permission, in writing, from the Director of Administration, in the first instance. All previous permissions to use the IDSc logo now require a new application to be made.

The IDSc are investing in an exciting new website. Pixel Labs has been working very hard to develop our new site. The handover is expected to happen in February and we will notify everyone via PaySubsOnline when the new site is up-and-running.

The issue of moving to an online journal has been under discussion for some months now as each journal last year run at a loss. There are several advantages of having an online journal; reduction in cost of design, print and distribution, to name a few. The main disadvantages would be potential loss of advertising revenue and not having a hard copy in our coffee rooms! At the AGM in November I asked the members what they would prefer and there was an overwhelming majority for an online

journal. I am taking this forward and will update you in the May journal.

In the November journal the incorrect IDSc Membership was published and the correct IDSc membership structure can be found on page 4.

The winners of *An evening of Dinner and Drinks in London at Pharmacy 2 restaurant*, courtesy of Warwick-Sasco, are listed on page 5: well done to the lucky winners and I'm sure this will be a fun evening.

Christine Bradley was our worthy winner of the Sir James Howie Award for her all her hard work, not only during her working years but in her retirement too; well done Christine.

Alan Clark pays tribute to **Paul Arnold** who was a great friend and supporter of the IDSc and will be sadly missed by us all.

Many thanks go to **Gudrun Westermann** for her excellent conference write-up again. *Decontamination Sciences from there to here – 50 years of IDSc* reflects on all that has happened and the changes that have taken place, however, there will still be enough work to be done for the IDSc in the 50 years to come.

Following on from his overview of standards for steam sterilization and washer disinfectors, **Richard Bancroft** brings us his second article for our new section 'Updates and Information': *An overview of low temperature sterilization standards*. This covers EO, low temperature steam and formaldehyde sterilizers – LTSF, low temperature hydrogen peroxide sterilizers (draft standard) and EN ISO 14937: Generic process standard. Much information on low temperature sterilization is to be found in this article. Richard is active member of many standards committees describes the current and future changes to some of the standards he is involved in.

Jimmy Walker, Graham Stanton, Peter Hoffman et al have submitted the second part of their paper *Understanding the evidence behind the HTM 01-01 decontamination guidance for the detection of proteins on surfaces of surgical instruments* and suggests that a plan is in place to move from essential requirements to best practice. This could be achieved within an organisation that has in place a protein detection system along with a robust quality assurance system.

'From the Archives' is an article from the December 1981 *Sterile World: National*

Standardisation of Basic Procedure Packs "Working Together" written by **Mrs P.A. Oliver** and **Mrs. J.M. Morris**. This is another ongoing topic – how many sterile service departments have standardised their packs? Is this problem still around today?

Our Something Different section would not be the same without the regular contribution from **Phil Hadridge**, Director Idenk. Here Phil's blog *Just Governance* asks what does that mean and how can it be assured. Follow his top 10 tips to help the right things to happen, and help avoid things going wrong.

We have a new contributor to our Opinions section, **Dr Mike Simmons**. Mike is a Consultant in Public Health Microbiology and Service Lead, Public Health Wales Microbiology to Hywel Dda Health Board. His article, *The protein emperor with no detectable clothes* provides an opportunity to reflect on all that we learned and considered at the IDSc conference debate. Mike discusses a two dimensional concept and a three dimensional reality, asks where do we go to from here and indicates that manufacturers are developing new challenge devices that will allow further assessment of the cleaning process, including the selection of detergent chemistries. Part 2 of **Pawel's** opinion piece discusses the development of such challenge devices.

Pawel is back with part 2 of *The story behind the development of new Process Challenge Devices for evaluation of cleaning efficacy – Looking deep inside* and is co-authored with **Pierre Bonnin, Jonathan Fairfoull** and **Chanel Cooper**. In this Pawel describes how process challenge devices are a simple and effective way to quickly evaluate cleaning processes provided they are designed to replicate an instrument as close as possible. The article goes on to explain that they imitate a particular cleaning challenge as closely as possible. I am sure we will be hearing more of Pawel's developments in future journals.

John Prendergast kindly agreed to do an interview for this edition. John started his career in decontamination as a hospital engineer in a sterile service department and has a keen interest in rugby. I'll say no more... read on!

