



GILL ELLIS-POW
EDITOR/DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

WELCOME to your 2019 Spring journal. I hope each and every reader had a lovely time over the Festive Season; it seems but a distant memory now.

It's hard to believe that it has been 6 years since I took over as Editor of the IDSc Medical Device Decontamination journal. As a reminder, and a wee trip down memory lane, I thought I would do a 'special edition' front cover and reprint my first four covers of the four nations. I shall miss the work around creating the journal every quarter along with the ongoing development of our new IDSc website, however, I know that these are both being passed into the safe hands of your new Director of Communications/Editor, **Tony Sullivan**. Tony, I wish you every success.

Our new website is now fully up-and-running with extremely few issues now and any we do get are very easily resolved. All members will be notified via LoveAdmin (formerly PaySubsOnline) when the journal goes online. In most cases, it will be available via the Members Section before your copy arrives through the post. I do hope you are enjoying having access to the journal via your PC, tablet and mobile as well as a hard copy in your hand!

There was a misprint in the November journal; the job title for **John Prendergast**

was incorrect. It should have read: **John Prendergast, MIHEEM, Senior Decontamination Engineer, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership – Specialist Estates Services**. This was corrected immediately in the online version.

News: Firstly, congratulations go to our President, **Professor Tony Young** on being awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours List.

There were a number of presentations at our Annual Conference dinner in November:

- We had three retiring Directors along with our past Chairman, **Susan Meredith**; each was presented with a voucher for their hard work and dedication to the IDSc over the past years.
- The James Howie Award was presented to **Carla Teirney** for all her hard work organising all the exhibitors at our annual Conference; well done Carla!
- Congratulations also go to **Corinne Dyer** who was the winner of the our first Serchem Award for the candidate scoring the highest marks in the Technical Certificate between the October 2017 and May 2018 examinations; well done Corinne!
- And last, though definitely not least, a huge well done and congratulations to all our students who successfully passed the IDSc Technical Certificate in October!

Gudrun Westermann again has produced an excellent write-up of yet another successful Conference.

Updates and Information: *'The new Prion Standard Protocol: Does it go far enough?'* by **Dr Christophe Lambert** discusses evolving scientific evidence and the French National Agency for the Safety of Health Products recently published new prion standard protocol PSPV2018.

Papers: **Graham Stanton**, Authorising Engineer (Decontamination) asks us *'What could possibly go wrong?'* and shares his experience around the reality of being an AE(D) at the sharp end'. This is taken from the entertaining presentation Graham gave us at the Central Sterilising Club (CSC) Study Day last September. Graham tells us about real situations he has been involved with and I am sure many of us can relate to some of his stories. Maybe AE(D)'s are supermen!

From the Archives: *The Role of the CSSD*

by **Elizabeth Garratt** was presented at the 16th Central Sterilising Club meeting back in 1974. It is interesting that when reading through many of the archived issues there are many similarities to the issues we are trying to resolve today. There are still people who think of a central decontamination unit as a factory production line when in fact it is providing a vital clinical service. We need to continue to promote our expertise and the IDSc is a perfect platform to help us achieve this.

Something Different: **Phil Hadridge** really has become our most regular contributor and he's back again with a short blog *'Making the hard stuff easy?'* Phil notes that even the most thoughtful training approaches bring about minimum behavioural changes long term though there are some notable approaches to orchestrating behaviour shifts through 'nudges'. We really can be set in our ways and not as open as we should be to changes in our behaviour. Should we set ourselves this challenge for 2019?

Opinions: Our opinion piece is in the form of a letter by **Bruno Amann** on an article published in the *Zentr Steril* 2018; 26 (2): 94–99 – *'Cleaning and drying performance of different designs of instrument baskets'* and some of the issues that Herr Amann needed to be addressed. These included: packing of instruments, the use of silicone mats, drying efficacy of using baskets with silicone mats and use of a rinse aid to name a few. I am pleased that we had the opportunity to print the author's reply. This allows us to have a wider debate around these very important issues for a sterile service department.

Interview: I am delighted that **Dr Jimmy Walker** agreed to be my last interviewee. Over the past few years we have had some very eminent people from the field of decontamination and Jimmy now gets to join that group! I love his answer to question 3, Jimmy makes a very valid and topical point in answer to question 4 and as for question 6, my order for one has already been submitted and his answer to question 10 is how we all know him; many thanks Jimmy!

I would like to sign off by sending all our readers my best wishes and to thank you all for sharing this journey with me over the past six years. Keep you contributions coming!

Gill Ellis-Pow
 Director of Communications/Editor