In this issue of *Occupational Medicine*

*Occupational Medicine* has been published eight times a year since 1997. Prior to that it was mainly published quarterly with occasional exceptions and fallow years. In 2015 *Occupational Medicine* will appear nine times and if all goes to plan it will become a monthly publication from 2018. We hope that our readers will see this as a benefit rather than a burden but there are good reasons for making this change. We are receiving ever-increasing submissions and in 2014 published more original research papers (85) than ever before. We also published more commissioned reviews, editorials and other articles of interest to our readership. Whilst we could further increase our rejection rate for submitted original research we feel that the journal, as part of the Society of Occupational Medicine, has a wider responsibility to the occupational health community. And this is despite the fact that increasing our publication frequency will possibly reduce the citation rate of the articles we publish (our impact factor), seen by some as an important measure of journal quality. Our impact factor has also been rising steadily for over 10 years but *Occupational Medicine* is a journal for practitioners as well as researchers. In 2014 over half a million articles were downloaded in pdf format from our website and this had increased by 5% compared to 2013. If html format is included this means that on average every article we published was accessed or downloaded over 6000 times and this was by people throughout the world. A further 227 institutions around the world subscribed to the journal during 2014, taking the total figure to 4375. In addition during 2014, the number of people signing up for our electronic table of contents (eTOC) increased by 7% and the number of people requesting notification of advance access increased by 12%.

In this issue, Craig Jackson [1] assesses the Chalder Fatigue Scale. The articles in our Questionnaire series have included some of the most frequently downloaded articles we publish. Craig previously reviewed the General Health Questionnaire (doi:10.1093/occmed/kql169), which has been downloaded in full-text format more than 12,000 times and our top ever download of any article is the review of the MRC breathlessness scale by Chris Stenton, which has been downloaded over 37,000 times (doi:10.1093/occmed/kqm162). All the questionnaire articles will be collected together on a new microsite on the *Occupational Medicine* website in the near future.

In the past, the number of papers published as a result of MFOM or MSc theses has been disappointingly low, despite a number of initiatives to try and encourage newly accredited occupational health professionals to publish their work in a journal. In December 2013, *Occupational Medicine* held its first workshop to help occupational physicians and related professionals publish an original research paper from their thesis. Ten potential new authors attended the workshop and in this issue we publish the first paper to emerge from that initiative. Bernadette Dalton [2] carried out an audit of how well the NICE guidelines on obesity had been implemented for staff working in an NHS trust and we hope her paper will be the first of many. Given the success of the first workshop and that more papers are in the pipeline, we will repeat the workshop later in 2015. We feel this represents an exciting breakthrough in terms of the Society’s aim to stimulate interest and research in occupational medicine. The long-term benefit from this initiative is that published authors continue to contribute to the speciality, whether through more research, presenting their findings at conferences, teaching and lecturing or contributing to books and training courses.

In 2015 we will also introduce a continuing professional development (CPD) resource linked to the review articles we publish. Our new *Occupational Medicine* microsites (http://www.occupationalmedicinebyindustry.co.uk/) collect published research articles specific to certain industry sectors as well as relevant and related external documents, and represent a fabulous resource for occupational health practitioners working in those sectors. Other plans for the future include redevelopment of the website, introduction of an app, more microsites, more podcasts, more special future issues, and this article and future In This Issue articles will be published as vlogs on our own Youtube channel in case you wondered what we looked like!

The Society of Occupational Medicine’s stated aims are to stimulate interest and research in occupational medicine and to be a national leader in providing continuing professional development and education for all doctors and healthcare professionals working in occupational health. It is also a forum for the exchange of ideas, best practice and networking opportunities. We hope you agree that *Occupational Medicine* is helping the Society meet those aims.

**John Hobson**
Editor

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**References**