

EDITORIAL

A world of fun discoveries

Lesley Dixon, co-editor

Many midwives describe midwifery as a calling or a vocation. I never felt “called” to the role but, once I became a midwife 37 years ago, I never wanted to do anything else. Being a midwife has always provided a deeply satisfying and meaningful focus within my life. Similarly, the role of midwifery researcher has provided fulfilment as I explored the world of midwifery and the positive impact that midwives have on the women they care for. For me, research has indeed been *a world of fun discoveries*.

Now, though, it is time for me to refocus my life as I retire from my work as Journal co-editor and midwifery advisor at the College and say, *Hello to a new world*, one which is *free of schedules, time clocks and company rules* and where there is time to discover other passions.

I am not alone in moving forward to a new phase of life. During this year Jean Patterson and Ruth Martis have also resigned from the Journal Editorial Board. Jean has retired from her midwifery work, whilst Ruth has moved to Germany to take up a Professor of Midwifery role. Both have had a huge impact on the midwifery profession during their years working in research and academia and will be greatly missed. With change comes opportunities, however, and Claire MacDonald will take over as the Journal's professional co-editor and, along with Andrea Gilkison, Lorna Davies and Eva Neely, will help to lead the Journal into a bright future.

This edition of the Journal brings four topics under the spotlight. The first is the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020, with two papers exploring the impact for two different groups: women who were pregnant and who gave birth during the lockdown, and midwifery students whose studies were affected by the lockdown. Both groups identified the benefits and challenges of the service changes and how these affected them. Importantly, the findings can provide guidance on ways to ensure needs are met when the next pandemic emerges.

Vaccination during pregnancy was another topic that came under the spotlight, with an exploration of the knowledge and understanding of a group of South Auckland women about vaccines, by Ady Priday and her colleagues. Amber Young and her colleagues explored midwives' perceptions on what helps or hinders women's access to, and uptake of, pregnancy vaccination. Both papers provide better understanding of the nuances of pregnancy vaccination.

Nicole Pihema and colleagues explored mentoring and identify the importance of a decolonising approach to Māori midwifery mentoring. They explain how Māori mentor midwives see their role as supporting their mentees to navigate the Pākehā health system. They also found that mentoring strengthened and sustained the mentors themselves.

Lactation was the focus of our final paper for the year. Sarita Garguilo-Welch and colleagues undertook an integrative literature review of the lactation and chestfeeding/breastfeeding needs of trans and non-binary parents. They found that literature exploring our unique cultural context is needed to increase Aotearoa health providers' knowledge about providing culturally appropriate gender-inclusive care.

Each of these papers explores the perspective of either midwives or the women/wāhine/people they provide care to. They also demonstrate the quality and quantity of research being undertaken by midwives in Aotearoa. Any research undertaken within the Aotearoa context inevitably showcases the context of midwifery care and the inherent partnership relationship that midwifery is founded on. These relationships can provide satisfaction and empowerment for the midwives and those in their care.



Lesley Dixon

As I say goodbye, I would like to thank the members of the editorial board for their support over the years. I am also grateful to Karen Guilliland, Norma Campbell, Elaine Gray and Alison Eddy – who helped me realise my dream of becoming a researcher in my early years at the College. I would also like to thank all who work at the College and all those who help to ensure that the Journal is a high quality publication. This includes the reviewers, Rhondda Davies our wonderful proofreader, Hayley McMurtrie who leads the layout and design process and secretariat Annie Oliver who is quietly amazing at keeping everything systematic, consistent and organised. Lastly, I would like to thank all the members of the College for their support through the years, it has been a wonderful privilege to work for the College and as a co-editor of the Journal.

Hello to a new world

You've paid your dues,
Done your time,
Put in long hours, too,
And now, you're ready to retire.
That doesn't mean your life will end,
Indeed, it's just about to begin,
Great moments lie in wait for you
where life is free of schedules, time clocks and
company rules,
Adventures abound like sparkling jewels,
A world of fun discoveries to relate that come
without an expiration date,
When the travel bug bites,
You're free to take flight,
And, since you're the boss of what you do,
Retirement plans are all up to you.

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The past and present co-editors and Editorial Board of the Journal wish to acknowledge and honour the astounding contribution that Lesley has made to midwifery research and scholarship in her time as co-editor of the Journal.

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